# ... AAITE DE COOPERATION EIS. √IATIERE CE BREVETS

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# ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIETE INTELLECTUELLE Bureau international



# DEMANDE INTERNATIONALE PUBLIEE EN VERTU DU TRAITE DE COOPERATION EN MATIERE DE BREVETS (PCT)

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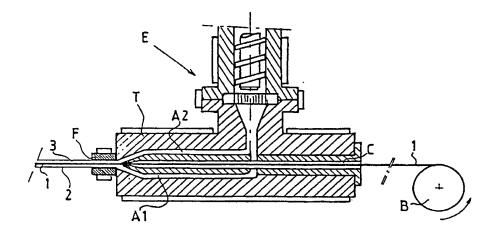
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(54) Titre: PROCEDE DE FABRICATION D'UNE CARTE SANS CONTACT



(57) Abstract

A method for producing a contactless card comprising a support (1) for the functional elements of the card, whereby said support (1) is provided with lower and upper covering layers (2,3) and the functional elements borne thereon are formed by means of extrusion, directly in contact with said support (1).

(57) Abrégé

Dans la fabrication d'une carte sans contact comprenant une feuille (1) de support des éléments fonctionnels de la carte, il est prévu selon l'invention que des couches inférieures et supérieures (2, 3) de revêtement de ladite feuille (1) et desdits éléments fonctionnels qu'elle porte sont formées par extrusion directement au contact de ladite feuille (1).

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## PROCEDE DE FABRICATION D'UNE CARTE SANS CONTACT

La présente invention concerne la fabrication de supports à circuit intégré du type sans contact tels qu'étiquettes électroniques ou cartes dites "sans contact" du fait de leur aptitude à échanger des informations à distance avec un lecteur suivant un mode lecture ou bien un mode écriture/lecture.

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telles cartes sont notamment des badges d'identification, ou bien des cartes à puce à fonctions plus étendues dont les applications se multiplient actuellement. Par exemple, dans une telle application dénommée "télébilletique", la carte est débitée passage à proximité d'une borne et peut être de même rechargée à distance. En règle générale, la transmission des données est effectuée par radiofréquence ou hyperfréquence.

Dans un procédé connu de fabrication d'une carte sans contact, est mise en oeuvre la technique dite de "colamination". Elle consiste ici à disposer entre les plateaux d'une presse un empilement de feuilles thermoplastiques au milieu duquel est positionné le circuit électronique pour transmission sans contact; puis à effectuer le soudage des différentes feuilles thermoplastiques par pression et élévation de la température. Ce procédé permet d'obtenir une carte dont toute l'électronique est noyée dans la matière

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plastique. Mais du fait des différences entre les coefficients de dilatation des divers matériaux utilisés, l'action combinée de la pression et de la température engendre une déformation résiduelle à la surface de la carte. Et le remède à cette déformation est très pénalisant en production, puisqu'il consiste à allonger sensiblement les temps de cycle, notamment le refroidissement. Un autre inconvénient de ces cartes est leur médiocre aptitude à résister à des sollicitations en flexion répétées.

Dans le document EP-A-0 640 940 au nom de N.V. Nederlandsche Apparentfabriek NEDAP, il est proposé une solution à ce double problème selon laquelle une couche intermédiaire à fonction de support pour les moyens fonctionnels de la carte est interposée entre deux couches superficielles, chacune de ces dernières étant fixée à la couche intermédiaire par une couche de liaison ayant une température de ramollissement plus basse. Ce procédé a toutefois le désavantage de comporter un grand nombre d'étapes et donc d'être de mise en oeuvre assez complexe.

La présente invention procède d'une recherche d'une nouvelle solution de fabrication de supports à circuit intégré du type sans contact pour surmonter les problèmes précités, en même temps que pour satisfaire à d'autres objectifs d'automatisation de la fabrication et de production en grande série à cadence élevée.

A cet effet, l'invention consiste en un procédé de fabrication d'un support de circuit intégré du type WO 00/70555 PCT/FR00/01263

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sans contact, pourvu d'éléments fonctionnels comprenant un bloc électronique ou puce relié à un enroulement à fonction d'antenne, et dont le corps comprend une couche de revêtement sur au moins un côté desdits éléments fonctionnels, caractérisé en ce que lesdits moyens fonctionnels sont implantés sur une feuille de support, et en ce que ladite couche de revêtement au moins est formée par extrusion, immédiatement au contact de ladite feuille de support.

Dans le cas préférentiel où sont extrudées deux couches de revêtement, une sur chaque côté de ladite feuille de support, il est donc obtenu un corps intégrant les composants électronique, et d'alimentation et transmission du système, lesquels composants sont entièrement noyés dans ledit corps.

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Dans une forme de réalisation de l'invention, ladite feuille de support desdits moyens fonctionnels est un film en matériau diélectrique. En variante, elle est une grille ou section de bande conductrice (de type "lead frame"), dans laquelle peut être découpé ledit enroulement sous forme d'une ou plusieurs spires.

Selon une autre caractéristique de l'invention, ledit procédé de fabrication est mis en oeuvre en faisant passer ladite feuille de support, pourvue au préalable desdits moyens fonctionnels, dans une filière d'extrusion de ladite couche de revêtement au moins. Si deux couches de revêtement sont prévues, elles sont avantageusement réalisées ensemble par co-extrusion sur les deux côtés de ladite feuille de support.

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Dans les deux cas, dans une étape préliminaire du procédé de fabrication, ladite feuille de support, pourvue desdits éléments fonctionnels de carte, est avantageusement conditionnée sous forme de bobine à dérouler en continu en vue d'une mise en oeuvre en continu de l'étape d'extrusion ou de co-extrusion, suite à laquelle, après refroidissement, peuvent avoir lieu en ligne une étape d'impression et/ou de découpe au format final, et/ou de test des produits, et/ou de dépôt sur le recto et/ou le verso de film imprimé, piste magnétique ou autres.

Selon une autre caractéristique de l'invention, l'étape de découpe comprend une phase préalable de repérage, en vue du positionnement pour la découpe proprement dite, le repérage consistant en une détection desdits moyens fonctionnels à travers la matière dont ils sont recouverts (par exemple par radio, ultrasons, etc.). Cette façon de procéder est particulièrement avantageuse lorsqu'il est prévu que ladite feuille de support soit totalement noyée dans la matière venant d'extrusion.

Dans le cas où ladite feuille de support est un film en matériau diélectrique constituant une âme centrale entre deux couches de revêtement obtenues par co-extrusion, il est avantageusement prévu une ou plusieurs ouvertures dans ladite âme centrale de la carte, de manière à ce que lesdites couches inférieure et supérieure soient co-extrudées en étant jointes l'une à l'autre de façon monolithique.



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La présente invention concerne donc également un support à circuit intégré du type sans contact, tel que carte à puce, comportant une feuille centrale de support des moyens fonctionnels, et des couches inférieure et supérieure, caractérisé en ce que ladite feuille de support présente au moins une ouverture au travers de laquelle communiquent les deux couches inférieure et supérieure. Dans un tel ensemble, la matière des couches inférieure et supérieure présente avec la matière se trouvant dans ladite ouverture au moins une continuité moléculaire homogène et constitutive d'un seul et même matériau.

D'autres caractéristiques de l'invention sont relatives à la réalisation et/ou au montage des éléments fonctionnels (bobine d'alimentation et antenne sous la forme d'un enroulement, et bloc électronique ou puce), sur un film en matériau diélectrique en tant que feuille de support centrale, selon lesquelles, avantageusement :

- 20 ledit enroulement est réalisé par métallisation dudit film ;
  - la puce est collée sur ledit film, et ses contacts sont reliés, avantageusement par soudure, à deux fils de connexion audit enroulement, l'ensemble de la puce et des fils de connexion étant noyé dans une goutte de résine;
  - ces deux opérations sont réalisées en continu sur ledit film en matériau diélectrique conditionné à cet effet en bobine à dérouler en continu.

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Ces caractéristiques et avantages de l'invention, ainsi que d'autres, apparaîtront plus clairement à la lecture de la description suivante, faite en relation avec les dessins joints, dans lesquels :

la Fig. 1 est une vue schématique en coupe illustrant dans son principe un dispositif d'extrusion utilisé dans une forme de mise en oeuvre du procédé selon l'invention,

les Figs. 2 et 3 sont des vues en plan similaires d'une portion de film destinée à constituer l'âme centrale d'une carte fabriquée selon l'invention, et pourvue des éléments fonctionnels de la carte, et

la Fig. 4 est une vue schématique en coupe du détail inscrit dans un cercle aux Figs. 2 et 3, illustrant le montage de la puce sur ladite âme centrale et sa connexion à l'enroulement à fonctions de bobine d'alimentation et d'antenne.

Considérant d'abord la Fig. 1, elle illustre dans le procédé de fabrication selon l'invention d'une carte 20 sans contact, sous forme de dispositif, l'étape de réalisation de deux couches inférieure et supérieure 2 et 3 recouvrant une âme centrale 1 pourvue au préalable des éléments fonctionnels de la carte qui, selon les cas, peuvent être implantés dans des positions variables de celle-ci. Les couches 2 et 3 protègent l'ensemble de l'âme 1 et de ses composants et, en règle générale, elles sont imprimées lors d'une étape ultérieure du procédé.

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Selon l'invention, les deux couches inférieure et supérieure 2 et 3 sont réalisées par extrusion, directement sur l'âme 1. Dans l'exemple représenté, elles sont obtenues simultanément par la technique bien connue d'extrusion de plaque, du fait de faire défiler l'âme 1 préalablement équipée en composants à travers la filière F du dispositif d'extrusion E.

A cet effet, la tête d'alimentation T de filière F consiste en un bloc dans lequel sont ménagés un canal C de passage de l'âme 1, aboutissant à l'entrée de la filière F, ainsi que deux conduites Al et A2 d'amenée de la matière à extruder débouchant respectivement inférieurement et supérieurement dans le canal C, immédiatement en amont de l'entrée de la filière F. On obtient ainsi en sortie de la filière F un stratifié dont l'épaisseur et l'aspect des deux couches extérieures 2 et 3 extrudées peuvent parfaitement contrôlés d'une manière connue en soi. Pour renforcer la liaison entre les couches extrudées 2, 3 et l'âme centrale 1, celle-ci peut être enduite d'un adhésif approprié avant passage dans le dispositif d'extrusion E.

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Sur le dessin, l'âme 1 apparaît conditionnée sous la forme d'une bobine B à dérouler en continu, en vue d'une alimentation en continu du dispositif d'extrusion E et, par conséquent, d'une production en sortie d'un ruban continu de stratifié qui peut subir en l'état des traitements ultérieurs tels que refroidissement et

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impression, les cartes n'étant formées qu'au final par découpe dans ce ruban.

En pratique, des matières à extruder classiques peuvent être utilisées, telles que polyéthylène-téraphtalate (PET) ou polychlorure de vinyle, etc., sélectionnées en fonction des matériaux constituant l'âme centrale 1 et les éléments fonctionnels des cartes à réaliser.

La Fig. 2 illustre une étape préalable dans la forme de mise en oeuvre préférée du procédé selon l'invention, relative à la préparation de l'âme centrale 1, qui apparaît ici en tant que partie d'un film 10 déroulé d'une bobine telle que B à la Fig. 1.

Sur le film 10, sont formés successivement des mêmes arrangements de circuit correspondant chacun à l'équipement fonctionnel d'une carte, et regroupant donc une puce 5 et un enroulement 6 à fonction de bobine d'alimentation et d'antenne.

L'enroulement 6 est avantageusement réalisé de façon classique par métallisation du diélectrique constituant le film 10, soit par gravure chimique ou bien contrecollage du métal, ou encore impression sérigraphique.

Le montage de la puce 5 sur le film 10 est illustré à la Fig. 4 : la puce 5 est d'abord collée sur le film 10, puis ses contacts sont reliés aux extrémités de l'enroulement 6, notamment par soudure en extrémité de fils de connexion 7. L'ensemble de la puce 5 et des fils de connexion 7 peut être ensuite noyé



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dans une goutte de résine 8. Toutes ces opérations relatives à la puce 5 et l'enroulement 6 peuvent donc être réalisées en ligne, de façon très largement, sinon complètement automatisée. Dans une forme plus simple, l'enroulement 6 peut faire partie intégrante du bloc électronique 5, ce qui réduit l'opération de montage à la simple fixation de celui-ci sur le film 10.

A la Fig. 2, apparaît en outre sur le film 10, un pourtour 11 en traits mixtes-fins entourant l'ensemble fonctionnel constitué par la puce 5 et de l'enroulement 6, et qui indique la coupe qui sera effectuée au final au format du produit final à obtenir. Notamment dans le cas où l'âme centrale est totalement noyée dans la matière extrudée, la découpe est avantageusement opérée suite à un repérage par détection des moyens 5, 6 à travers la matière (par exemple par radio, ultrasons, etc.).

La Fig. 3 est pour l'essentiel identique à la Fig. 2 et comporte par conséquent les mêmes signes de référence pour désigner les mêmes éléments. Ont été seulement représentés en plus des évidements 12 ménagés dans le film 10 à l'emplacement de chaque future carte, avant ou après l'agencement des ensembles d'équipement 5, 6. Les évidements 12 sont prévus en tant que passage de communication entre le recto et le verso du film 10, qui vont donc permettre à la matière d'extrusion de se répartir sans solution de continuité autour du film, constituant donc les couches superficielles 2 et 3 jointes entre elles de façon monolithique. En prévoyant



en plus d'un évidemment central, des évidements longitudinaux et transversaux à cheval sur le pourtour de découpe 11, on peut obtenir un corps de carte formant une enveloppe quasi-continue, sauf en une partie minime du pourtour.

Outre de par les avantages de la mise en oeuvre du procédé de fabrication ressortant de la description qui précède, l'invention est remarquable également au niveau du produit qui en résulte, dont les moyens fonctionnels sont entièrement protégés dans une gaine en matière plastique, dont la sécurisation est maximale puisqu'il ne peut y avoir d'accès physique aux circuits électronique sans destruction du corps de carte, et dont la surface imprimable est augmentée.

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#### REVENDICATIONS

- 1) Procédé de fabrication de supports de circuit 5 intégré du type sans contact, tels que cartes à puce sans contact, pourvu d'éléments fonctionnels comprenant un bloc électronique (5) relié à un enroulement (6) à fonction d'antenne, et dont le corps comprend une 10 couche de revêtement sur au moins un côté desdits éléments fonctionnels, caractérisé en ce que lesdits moyens fonctionnels (5, 6) sont implantés sur une feuille de support, et en ce que ladite couche de revêtement au moins formée est par extrusion, 15 immédiatement au contact de ladite feuille de support.
  - 2) Procédé selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que ladite feuille de support est une grille conductrice dans laquelle est formé ledit enroulement (6).
- 20 3) Procédé de selon la revendication 1 ou 2, caractérisé en ce qu'il est mis en oeuvre en faisant passer ladite feuille de support pourvue au préalable desdits moyens fonctionnels (5, 6) dans une filière (F) d'extrusion de ladite couche de revêtement (2 et/ou 3).
- 4) Procédé selon la revendication 3, caractérisé en ce que ladite feuille de support, pourvue desdits éléments fonctionnels (5, 6), est conditionnée sous forme de bobine (B) à dérouler en continu en vue d'une mise en oeuvre en continu de l'étape d'extrusion.

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- 5) Procédé selon la revendication 4, caractérisé en ce que suite à l'étape d'extrusion et après refroidissement, ont lieu en ligne une étape d'impression et/ou une étape de découpe au format final des produits à obtenir.
- 6) Procédé selon la revendication 5, caractérisé en ce qu'il comprend une étape de découpe au format final des produits dans laquelle est prévue pour le positionnement nécessaire à la découpe proprement dite, une phase de repérage préalable par détection desdits moyens fonctionnels (5, 6) au travers de la matière dont ils sont recouverts.
- 7) Procédé selon l'une des revendications 4 à 6, caractérisé en ce que suite à l'étape d'extrusion, a lieu en ligne une étape pour le dépôt d'un film imprimé sur le recto et/ou le verso des produits à obtenir.
- 8) Procédé selon l'une des revendications 1 et 3 à 7, caractérisé en ce qu'il est prévu en tant que feuille de support desdits éléments fonctionnels (5, 6), un film en matériau diélectrique (1).
- 9) Procédé selon la revendication 8, caractérisé en ce que sont prévues deux couches inférieure (1) et supérieure (2) de revêtement du film en diélectrique (1) formant âme centrale entre les deux, et en ce qu'il est en outre prévu une ou plusieurs ouvertures (12) dans ladite âme centrale de la carte, de manière à ce que lesdites couches inférieure et supérieure (2, 3) soient co-extrudées en étant jointes l'une à l'autre de façon monolithique.

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- 10) Procédé selon la revendication 8 ou 9, caractérisé en ce que préalablement à l'étape d'extrusion des couches (2, 3), un enroulement (6) à fonctions d'antenne et de bobine d'alimentation pour la puce (5) est réalisé par métallisation sur l'âme (1).
- 11) Procédé selon la revendication 10, caractérisé en ce que la puce (5) est collée sur ladite âme centrale, et ses contacts sont reliés à deux fils (7) de connexion audit enroulement (6), l'ensemble de la puce (5) et des fils de connexion (7) étant noyé dans une goutte de résine (8).

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- 12) Procédé selon la revendication 11, caractérisé en ce que les deux opérations de réalisation de l'enroulement (6) et de montage de la puce (5) sont réalisées en continu sur un film (10) conditionné en bobine (B) à dérouler en continu et constituant ladite âme centrale.
- 13) Support de circuit intégré du type sans contact, tel que carte à puce sans contact, obtenu par le procédé selon l'une des revendications 1 à 12.
- 14) Support de circuit intégré de type sans contact, tel que carte à puce sans contact, comportant une feuille centrale (1) de support des moyens fonctionnels (5, 6), et des couches inférieure et supérieure (2, 3), caractérisé en ce que ladite feuille de support (1) présente au moins une ouverture (12) au travers de laquelle communiquent les deux couches inférieure (2) et supérieure (3), la matière des couches inférieure et supérieure (2, 3) présentant avec

la matière se trouvant dans ladite ouverture (12) au moins une continuité moléculaire homogène et constitutive d'un seul et même matériau.



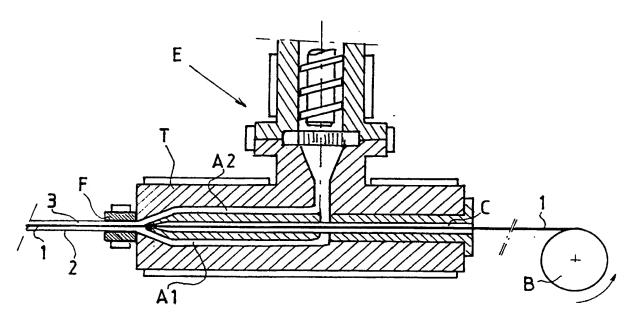


FIG. 1

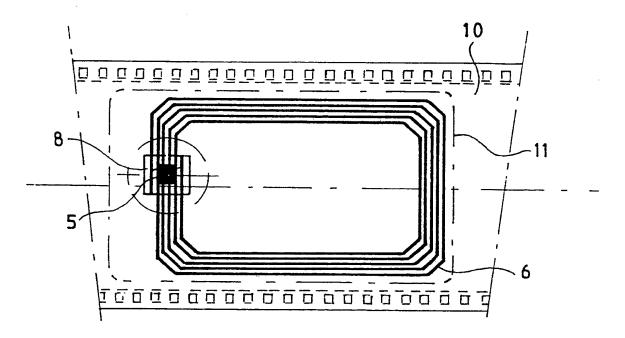


FIG. 2

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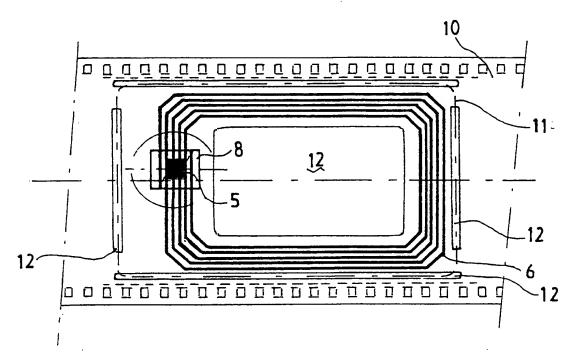


FIG. 3

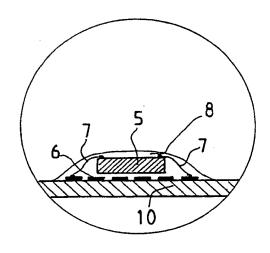
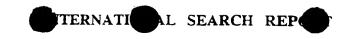


FIG. 4

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# CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 G06K19/077 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G06K B42DDocumentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y US 5 387 306 A (JARVIS CHARLES R) 1-5,7,8, 7 February 1995 (1995-02-07) 10-14 column 3, line 26 -column 4, line 41; claim 1; figures 1,3,5 column 5, line 45-49 EP 0 476 636 A (TOPPAN PRINTING CO LTD) Y 1-5,7,8, 25 March 1992 (1992-03-25) 10 - 14page 3, line 32 -page 4, line 38; figures 4,5 page 6, line 27-51 EP 0 886 239 A (TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC 10,11 Α CO) 23 December 1998 (1998-12-23) figures 2.3 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-\*O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 9 August 2000 17/08/2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Cardigos dos Reis, F Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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A. CLASSEMENT DE L'OBJET DE LA DEMANDE CIB 7 GO6K19/077

Selon la classification internationale des brevets (CIB) ou à la fois selon la classification nationale et la CIB

#### B. DOMAINES SUR LESQUELS LA RECHERCHE A PORTE

Documentation minimale consultée (système de classification suivi des symboles de classement) CIB 7 G06K B42D

Documentation consultée autre que la documentation minimale dans la mesure où ces documents relèvent des domaines sur lesquels a porté la recherche

Base de données électronique consultée au cours de la recherche internationale (nom de la base de données, et si réalisable, termes de recherche utilisés) WPI Data, PAJ

| C. DOCUMENTS | CONSIDERES COMME PERTINE | NTS |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----|
|              |                          |     |

| Catégorie ° | Identification des documents cités, avec, le cas échéant, l'indication des passages pertinents  | no. des revendications visées |
|-------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Y           | US 5 387 306 A (JARVIS CHARLES R) 7 février 1995 (1995-02-07) colonne 3, ligne 26 -colonne 4, ligne 41; revendication 1; figures 1,3,5 colonne 5, ligne 45-49 | 1-5,7,8,<br>10-14             |
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| Voir la suite du cadre C pour la fin de la liste des documents   | Les documents de familles de brevets sont indiqués en annexe  |
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| Date à laquelle la recherche internationale a été effectivement achevée  9 août 2000   | Date d'expédition du présent rapport de recherche internationale 17/08/2000   |
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| Nom et adresse postale de l'administration chargée de la recherche internationale Office Européen des Brevets, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016  | Cardigos dos Reis, F  |

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Renseignements relatifs aux membres de families de brevets

de Internationale 20 PCT/FR 00/01263

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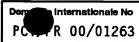
# RAPPORT DE RECHERCHE INTERNATIONALE

(article 18 et règles 43 et 44 du PCT)

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| Référence du dossier du déposant ou du mandataire GEM0562                             |  | transmission du rapport de recherche internationale<br>220) et, le cas échéant, le point 5 ci-après     |
| D mande internationale n°   | Date du dépôt international(jour/mois/ani  | née) (Date de priorité (la plus ancienne)<br>(jour/mois/année)  |
| PCT/FR 00/01263   | 11/05/2000   | 12/05/1999  |
| Déposant  |  |   |
| GEMPLUS et al.  |  |   |
| Le présent rapport de recherche internation déposant conformément à l'article 18. Une | onale, établi par l'administration chargée de<br>e copie en est transmise au Bureau interna  | e la recherche internationale, est transmis au<br>tional.   |
| Ce rapport de recherche internationale co   | mprend feuilles.   |   |
| <u> </u>  | l'une copie de chaque document relatif à l'  | état de la technique qui y est cité.  |
| Base du rapport   | MALE CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRAC |   |
| a. En ce qui concerne la <b>langue,</b> la r<br>langue dans laquelle elle a été dé    | echerche internationale a été effectuée su<br>posée, sauf indication contraire donnée so   | r la base de la demande intemationale dans la<br>us le même point.                                      |
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| remis ultérieurement à l'ac   | dministration, sous forme écrite.  |   |
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| 2. Il a été estimé que certal   | nes revendications ne pouvalent pas fa   | l <b>re l'objet d'une recherche</b> (voir le cadre I).  |
| 3. Il y a absence d'unité de  | l'Invention (voir le cadre II).  |   |
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| A. CLASSE<br>CIB 7               | MENT DE L'OBJET DE LA DEMANDE<br>G06K19/077  |  |  |
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|                                  | ssification internationale des brevets (CIB) ou à la fois selon la classific   | cation nationale et la CIB   |  |
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| Documenta                        | tion consultée autre que la documentation minimale dans la mesure où   | à ces documents relèvent des domaines s  | ur lesquels a porté la recherche   |
|                                  | nnées électronique consultée au cours de la recherche internationale (   | nom de la base de données, et si réalisab  | le, termes de recherche utilisés)  |
| WPI Da                           | ta, PAJ  |  |  |
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| <u> </u>                         | la sulte du cadre C pour la fin de la liste des documents  | Les documents de familles de bre   | vets sont indiqués en annexe   |
|                                  | spéciales de documents cités:  | r document ultérieur publié après la date<br>date de priorité et n'appartenenant pa  | s à l'état de la   |
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# **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

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on patent family members

Interpopular Application No
PCAP R 00/01263

|    | atent document<br>d in search repo      | rt | Publication<br>dat |    | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication dat |
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|    |   |    |                    | DE | 69019392 7                 | 05-10-1995      |
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|    |   |    |                    | ES | 2071758 1                  | 01-07-1995      |
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|    |   |    |                    | GB |                            | A,B 25-07-1990  |
|    |   |    |                    | JP | 3503390 T                  |                 |
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| ΕP | 0476636                                 | Α  | 25-03-1992         | JP | 4128086 A                  | 28-04-1992      |
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11 Publication number:

0 476 636 A1

(12)

# **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

21 Application number: 91115881.4

(a) Int. Cl.5: B42D 15/02

② Date of filing: 18.09.91

Co.,Ltd.

3 Priority: 19.09.90 JP 249756/90

43 Date of publication of application: 25.03.92 Bulletin 92/13

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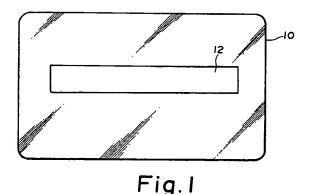
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Signature panel and process for producing the same.

The improved process for producing a signature panel comprises the steps of forming on the writing surface of a panel substrate a printed graphic pattern that will change upon exposure to alcohols, organic solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants, and laminating the other surface of the panel substrate with a thermoplastic resin by extrusion or hot melt coating. According to this process, signature panels can be thermocompressed at comparatively low temperatures not only to roll mills of overprint cards using a polyvinyl chloride sheet as an oversheet base but also to card substrates such as PET sheets, metal sheets and glass sheets without causing any adverse effects on the graphic pattern printed on the writing surface of the panel which will change upon exposure to chemicals.



#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a signature panel to be formed on the surface of cards such as debit cards, credit cards, identification cards and membership cards. The invention also relates to a process for producing such a signature panel.

Debit cards, credit cards, identification cards, membership cards and other cards must be checked for the legitimacy of not only themselves but also their holders. A method of meeting this requirement is to have cardholders sign their names in an area specified as a "signature panel" which is indicated by 12 and which is provided in substantially the center of the card 10 as shown in Fig. 1.

A major problem with cards is that a person who is not the true holder of a card can use it if he tampers the authentic signature of the true card holder.

Various methods have been proposed to prevent the forgery and tampering of cards. One method is using a signature panel that is provided on the surface of a synthetic resin board and which has formed on the writing surface a graphic pattern that will change upon exposure to alcohols, solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants. Several versions of such signature panels have been proposed by American Banknote Co., Ltd., U.S.A., Maccorquodale Co., Ltd., U.S.A., Thomas de Iarue Co., Ltd., U.S.A., Harrison & Sons, Ltd., U.K., etc. The writing surfaces of the signature panels proposed by those companies are provided with graphic patterns that will change upon exposure to alcohols, solvents (e.g. methyl ethyl ketone, toluene, gasoline and thinners), bleaching agents or surfactants (e.g. detergents) (which are hereunder collectively referred to as "chemicals"). If someone wants to tamper the signature inscribed on such panels, he has to erase it by a certain means and thereafter write a false signature. However, if the authentic signature is erased with chemicals, the graphic pattern provided in the signature panel will simultaneously undergo some change such as dissolution, swelling, fading or change of color, which all make the act of tampering clearly evident.

The signature panels described above have to be bonded to the card substrate. If the card substrate is made of polyvinyl chloride without any surface treatment, there is no need to use solvent-containing adhesives and the signature panels can be bonded to the card substrate merely by thermocompression which is conducted at a fairly high temperature of ca. 150°C. However, if the card substrate has a polyvinyl chloride oversheet coated on the entire surface, accompanied by the formation of a colored graphic pattern (a card using this substrate is often referred to as an "overprint card"), the graphic pattern will deform thermally at elevated temperatures of 150°C and the signature panel cannot be bonded to the substrate without using an adhesive.

Needless to say, the conventional signature panels cannot be thermocompressed onto card substrates such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET) sheets, metal sheets and glass sheets and an adhesive must be used to bond them together.

However, if an adhesive is applied in order to bond the signature panels to various types of card substrates, the solvents contained in the adhesive will cause a change in the printed graphic pattern on the writing surface of the panels which will change upon exposure to chemicals and this has made it practically impossible to use adhesives for the purpose of bonding signature panels and card substrates.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been achieved under these circumstances and has as an object providing a signature panel that can be thermocompressed at comparatively low temperatures not only to roll mills of overprint cards using a polyvinyl chloride sheet as an oversheet base but also to card substrates such as PET sheets, metal sheets and glass sheets without causing any adverse effects on the graphic pattern printed on the writing surface of the panel which will change upon exposure to chemicals. Another object of the present invention is to provide a process for producing such an improved signature panel.

The first object of the present invention can be attained by a signature panel that has a thermoplastic resin layer provided on the back side of a panel substrate which is opposite the writing surface carrying a printed graphic pattern that will change upon exposure to alcohols, organic solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants.

The second object of the present invention can be attained by a process for producing a signature panel that comprises the steps of forming on the writing surface of a panel substrate a printed graphic pattern that will change upon exposure to alcohols, organic solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants, and laminating the other surface of the substrate with thermoplastic resin by extrusion or hot melt coating.

The second object of the present invention can also be attained by a process for producing a signature panel that comprises the steps of forming on the writing surface of a panel substrate a printed graphic pattern that will change upon exposure to alcohols, organic solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants, roll

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coating release paper with a thermoplastic resin dissolved in an organic solvent, removing the solvent by drying, and laminating the other surface of the panel substrate with the thermoplastic resin layer by thermal fusion.

The signature panel of the present invention has a thermoplastic resin layer provided on the back side by extrusion or hot melt coating without using any chemicals such as organic solvents. Hence, no change will occur in the printed graphic pattern which would otherwise change upon exposure to chemicals. The thermoplastic resin layer coated on the back side of the substrate of the signature panel exhibits an effective thermal bonding property with respect to both panel substrates and card substrates even if thermocompression is performed at temperatures of up to 150 °C. Therefore, the signature panel of the present invention can be bonded to "overprint cards" without causing thermal deformation of the graphic pattern formed on their surface.

According to the first method of the present invention for producing a signature panel, a thermoplastic resin layer can be applied in a desired thickness to the back side of a panel substrate without using organic solvents or other chemicals as coating aids.

According to the second method for producing a signature panel, organic solvents and other chemicals may be used as coating aids and yet a thermoplastic resin layer can be applied in a desired thickness to the back side of a panel substrate without permitting the chemicals to make direct contact with the substrate.

## 20 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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- Fig. 1 is a plan view of a card having the signature panel of the present invention provided thereon;
- Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross section of the signature panel of the present invention;
- Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross section of a signature panel formed by co-extrusion coating;
- Fig. 4 is a diagram showing how a thermoplastic resin is coated by extrusion;
- Fig. 5 is a diagram showing how a thermoplastic resin is coated by co-extrusion; and
- Fig. 6 shows diagrammatically a thermocompression apparatus used to bond the signature panel of the present invention to a card substrate.

#### 30 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The preferred embodiments of the present invention are described below with reference to Figs. 2 - 6. Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross section of the signature panel of the present invention. As shown, a printed graphic pattern 14 that will change upon exposure to chemicals is formed on top of a panel substrate 16 and a thermoplastic resin layer 18 is formed on the underside of the substrate 16.

The substrate 16 is made of a material that is highly permeable to alcohols, organic solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants. The substrate is typically made of a paper base that will easily absorb and fix the ink of a fountain pen, a ball-point pen or a felt pen which are used to inscribe signatures, that will adhere strongly to card substrates, and that helps the signature panel become forgery-and tamper-evident.

The printed graphic pattern 14 which will change upon exposure to chemicals may be formed of inks that use oil dyes (solvent dyes) which are highly soluble in solvents, inks that use dyes vulnerable to oxidation bleaching or reduction bleaching, or inks that use binders subject to the attack of solvents. These are not the sole examples of the printed graphic pattern and any other printed patterns may be used as long as they will readily change upon exposure to the chemicals mentioned above. Useful panel substrates are commercially available from American Banknote Co., Ltd., U.S.A., Maccorquodale Co., Ltd., U.S.A., Thomas de larue Co., Ltd., U.S.A., and Harrison & Sons, Ltd., U.K. but details of those proprietary products have not been disclosed.

The thermoplastic resin layer 18 is made of a thermoplastic resin that can be applied by extrusion coating or hot melt coating and which, upon thermocompression at temperatures of up to 150 °C, will insure strong adhesion between the paper base of signature panel and card substrates typified by polyvinyl chloride.

The signature panel of the present invention is formed by bonding the paper base having the characteristics described above onto the card substrate without using an adhesive. The present inventor conducted various studies in order to find thermoplastic resins that would meet the bonding conditions described above and found that the following resins had satisfactory bonding properties: urethane resins, vinyl chloride polymers, and mixtures or copolymers thereof; ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers, ethylene/acrylic acid copolymers, ethylene/acrylic acid ester copolymers, mixtures thereof with a tackifier, and mixtures thereof with a tackifier and a wax; co-polyester resins and co-polyamide resins; and

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polyethylene or ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers that have maleic anhydride or other unsaturated carboxylic acids grafted thereto. Among those resins, urethane resins, vinyl chloride polymers and mixtures or copolymers thereof proved to be satisfactory in terms of the strength of bond to signature panels and endurance.

The term "urethane resins" as used herein means basically those linear random alternating block copolymers which contain as major components an OH-terminated long-chain polyol diisocyanate having a molecular weight of 1,000 - 3,000 and a chain extender such as a short-chain polyol having a molecular weight of up to 500. Thus, depending on the type of long-chain polyol used, urethane resins may be polyester-, polyether- or polycaprolactone-based, all of which can be used in the present invention. Particularly preferred are thermoplastic urethane resins in which the chemical equivalent ratio of an isocyanato group to a hydroxy group is less than unity. Such thermoplastic urethane resins permit the temperature for thermocompression to be lowered to 100 - 110 °C so that the possible deterioration of card substrates by thermocompression is sufficiently prevented to increase the processing speed.

Usable vinyl chloride polymers include polyvinyl chloride, a vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer and a vinyl chloride/vinylidene chloride copolymer. Mixtures of urethane and vinyl chloride polymers as well as copolymers thereof also exhibited good bonding properties. Particularly preferred are those vinyl chloride polymers which contain 20 - 60 wt% of vinyl chloride.

Layers of those thermoplastic resins can basically be formed on the paper base of signature panel by extrusion coating. However, urethane resins, vinyl chloride polymers, mixtures of urethane and vinyl chloride polymers and copolymers thereof are difficult to effectively as single layers in thicknesses not greater than 30  $\mu$ m. Further, the signature panel of the present invention typically has the thermoplastic resin layer in a thickness of 2 - 50  $\mu$ m, preferably 5 - 30  $\mu$ m. If the thermoplastic resin layer is thinner than 2  $\mu$ m, no adequate strength of adhesion will be attained. The strength of adhesion will not be increased any further even if the thickness of the adhesive layer exceeds 50  $\mu$ m; to the contrary, excess thermoplastic resin will spread beyond the edges of the signature panel during thermocompression and will stick to the hot plates or the card substrate, potentially causing problems in the use of cards.

Under these circumstances, it is preferred to perform co-extrusion coating as shown in Fig. 5, in which the thermoplastic resin layer indicated by 18 is extruded simultaneously with a release layer 20 that is made of an easily extrudable polyolefin resin such as polyethylene or polypropylene. By adopting this technique, consistent coating operations can be performed while controlling the thickness of the thermoplastic resin layer within the range of  $2 - 50~\mu m$ . The signature panel produced by this method is indicated by 12 in Fig. 3. The co-extrusion coating process comprises the steps of extruding the thermoplastic resin layer 18 in superposition on the release layer 20 so that the two layers will be superposed on a panel substrate 16 being supplied in a web form, shaping the coatings to a predetermined thickness by means of rollers 33 and 34, and winding up the assembly by a takeup roller 36.

After the co-extrusion coating, the polyolefin release layer 20 is stripped from the substrate 16 to yield a signature panel 12 which, as shown in Fig. 2, is an assembly of the paper base and the adhesive thermoplastic resin layer.

Still other examples of useful thermoplastic resins are ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers, ethylene/acrylic acid copolymers, ethylene/acrylic acid ester copolymers, mixtures thereof with a tackifier, and mixtures thereof with a tackifier and a wax. These thermoplastic resins are satisfactory in terms of the strength of adhesion to signature panels during thermocompression, endurance of signature panels and the ease of thin film formation.

The preferred ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer has a vinyl acetate content of 3 - 30 wt%, with the range of 10 - 20 mol% being more preferred. Illustrative ethylene/acrylic acid copolymers include an ethylene/acrylic acid copolymer and an ethylene/methacrylic acid copolymer, and illustrative ethylene/acrylic acid ester copolymers include an ethylene/ethyl acrylate copolymer and an ethylene/methyl acrylate copolymer.

Exemplary tackifiers that can be used include terpene resins, rosins, modified rosins, aliphatic petroleum resins, aromatic petroleum resins and coumarone-indene resins. These tackifiers are preferably added in amounts of 1 - 20 wt%. Waxes that can be used include paraffin wax, microcrystalline wax, carnauba wax and polyethylene wax and they are preferably added in amounts of 5 - 30 wt%.

The thermoplastic resins described above may be applied by extrusion coating as shown in Fig. 4; in which the thermoplastic resin layer 18 is extruded through a nozzle and superposed on a web of a panel substrate 16 being supplied in a web form, the coating is then shaped to a predetermined thickness by means of rollers 33 and 34, and the assembly is guided by a roller 35 to be wound up by a takeup roller 36, whereby the signature panel of the present invention is produced. Mixtures of ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers with a tackifier and a wax may also be applied by hot melt coating, in which they are melted by

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heating at 60 - 120 °C and roll coated.

Although not shown, the second method of the present invention for producing the signature panel described above comprises the steps of dissolving the thermoplastic resin in an organic solvent serving as a coating aid, applying the solution onto silicone release paper in a predetermined thickness by roll coating, drying the applied coating adequately, superposing it on a panel substrate, bonding them together by heated rollers, and stripping the silicone release paper to obtain the intended signature panel of the present invention. This method has the advantage that organic solvents can be used as coating aids without causing any adverse effects on the printed graphic pattern formed on the signature panel.

The signature panel 12 produced by the above-described processes is slit to a suitable size and bonded to a predetermined area of a card by means of a thermocompression apparatus of the type shown in Fig. 6. This apparatus consists of two hot plates 30 and 32 at least one of which is movable, and a card 10 and the signature panel 12 placed in a predetermined position on the card are held between the hot plates 30 and 32, followed by thermocompression to bond the signature panel 12 to the card 10.

The following examples are provided for the purpose of further illustrating the present invention but are in no way to be taken as limiting.

### Example 1

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An ink for printing a graphic pattern on signature panels was prepared according to the following formula:

| Sumiplast Blue OA (blue oil dye of SUMITOMO CHEMICAL CO., LTD.) | 10 parts |
|---|----------|
| Ethyl cellulose (Ethocell N-7 of Hercules Incorporated)         | 7 parts  |
| Isopropyl alcohol   | 33 parts |
| Ethanol   | 50 parts |

Using this ink, a graphic pattern was printed on one side of a signature panel substrate made of wood-free paper (product of Oji Paper Co., Ltd.;  $788 \times 1091$  mm; 45 kg)

Onto the other side of the substrate, a urethane resin and polypropylene were applied by co-extrusion. The urethane resin was a polyester-based polyurethane in which the chemical equivalent ratio of an isocyanato group to a hydroxyl group was 0.99. The urethane resin coat had a thickness of 10  $\mu$ m.

Subsequently, the polypropylene layer was stripped and the assembly of the urethane resin coat and the substrate was slit to tapes in a width of 10 mm, whereby signature panels were produced.

Those signature panels were bonded onto cards by thermocompression at 110°C. The thus prepared cards were free from any deterioration of themselves and discoloration of the ink of which the printed graphic pattern was formed on the signature panels. In addition, the signature panels adhered so strongly to the cards that they could not be stripped without causing picking of the paper base. It was therefore clear that those signature panels had satisfactory security against forgery and tampering.

To verify its effectiveness, the present invention as described in Example 1 was compared with a prior art method of bonding signature panels to cards.

### Comparative Example 1

As in Example 1, an ink for printing a graphic pattern on signature panels was formulated and a predetermined graphic pattern was printed on one side of wood-free paper.

Subsequently, an adhesive was prepared according to the following formula:

| Vinyl chloride acetate resin | 15 parts |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Acrylic resin                | 10 parts |
| Methyl ethyl ketone          | 38 parts |
| Toluene                      | 37 parts |

The adhesive was then coated onto the other side of the signature panel substrate. The ink dissolved into the solvents in the adhesive and the graphic pattern deformed and discolored.

### Example 2

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A signature panel (with a printed graphic pattern) available from American Banknote Co., Ltd. was used as a substrate. A mixture in which an ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer (15 mol% vinyl acetate) and a rosin as a tackifier were incorporated in a ratio of 85:15 was extrusion coated in a thickness of 20 µm on the back side of the substrate. The so treated panel substrate was bonded to a card by thermocompression at 120°C. The card was free from any deterioration of itself and discoloration of the ink of which the printed graphic pattern was formed on the signature panel. In addition, the signature panel adhered to the card with sufficient strength.

To verify its effectiveness, the method of Example 2 was compared with another prior art method of bonding signature panels to cards.

### Comparative Example 2

An adhesive was prepared according to the following formula:

| Vinyl chloride acetate resin | 15 parts |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Acrylic resin                | 10 parts |
| Methyl ethyl ketone          | 38 parts |
| Toluene                      | 37 parts |
|                              |          |

The adhesive was coated onto a signature panel of American Banknote Co., Ltd. as in Example 2. The ink used to print the graphic pattern on the signature panel dissolved into the solvents in the adhesive and discoloration of the graphic pattern occurred.

### 25 Example 3

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An adipate ester based linear polyurethane resin (Paraprene P22S of Nippon Miractron Co., Ltd.) was dissolved in a solvent system of dimethylformamide and methyl ethyl ketone to give a solids content of 15%, whereby a polyurethane coating solution was prepared. This solution was roll coated in a thickness of 5  $\mu$ m onto silicone release paper and the solvents were evaporated by drying. In a separate step, an ink was formulated as in Example 1 and a graphic pattern was printed on a signature panel substrate that was made of wood-free paper. The silicone release paper was then bonded to the signature panel substrate by means of heated rolls at 110°C. Subsequently, the silicone release paper was stripped and the assembly of the substrate and the polyurethane coat was slit to tapes in a width of 10 mm, whereby signature panels were produced.

Those signature panels were bonded onto cards by thermocompression at 110°C. The thus prepared cards were free from any deterioration of themselves and discoloration of the ink of which the printed graphic pattern was formed on the signature panels. In addition, the signature panels adhered so strongly to the cards that they could not be stripped without causing picking of the paper base. It was therefore clear that those signature panels had satisfactory security against forgery and tampering.

As described on the foregoing pages, the signature panel of the present invention has a thermoplastic resin layer formed on the back side which is opposite the writing surface carrying a printed graphic pattern that is highly permeable to alcohols, organic solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants and that will change upon exposure to those chemicals. Because of this structure, the signature panel has high security against the forgery and tampering of signatures. This signature panel can be bonded to card substrates without using adhesives containing solvents and, hence, without causing any change in the printed graphic pattern on the panel. Furthermore, oversheet substrates which have graphic patterns formed in correspondence to overprint cards can be used with the signature panel of the present invention without experiencing any thermal deformation. In addition, the thermoplastic resins that are used in the present invention will exhibit very good bonding properties when they are thermocompressed onto vinyl chloride resin sheets, PET sheets, metal sheets, glass sheets and other card substrates.

According to the process of the present invention for producing the above-described signature panel, the thermoplastic resin can be coated onto the back side of a signature panel substrate in such a way that the panel can be bonded to card substrates without reducing the strength of adhesion. As a further advantage, the thermoplastic resin can be applied to form such a thin layer that it will not spread beyond the edges of the panel, thereby permitting the panel to be neatly positioned on the card substrate.

If necessary, the thermoplastic resin may be applied using organic solvents and other coating aids and yet the printed graphic pattern on the signature panel will not be affected adversely.

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The improved process for producing a signature panel comprises the steps of forming on the writing surface of a panel substrate a printed graphic pattern that will change upon exposure to alcohols, organic solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants, and laminating the other surface of the panel substrate with a thermoplastic resin by extrusion or hot melt coating. According to this process, signature panels can be thermocompressed at comparatively low temperatures not only to roll mills of overprint cards using a polyvinyl chloride sheet as an oversheet base but also to card substrates such as PET sheets, metal sheets and glass sheets without causing any adverse effects on the graphic pattern printed on the writing surface of the panel which will change upon exposure to chemicals.

#### 10 Claims

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- A signature panel that has a thermoplastic resin layer provided on the back side which is opposite the
  writing surface carrying a printed graphic pattern that will change upon exposure to alcohols, organic
  solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants.
- 2. A signature panel according to claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic resin layer formed on the back side of the panel has a thickness of 2 50 μm.
- 3. A signature panel according to claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of urethane resins, vinyl chloride polymers, as well as mixtures and copolymers thereof.
  - 4. A signature panel according to claim 3 wherein said urethane resin is a linear random alternating block copolymer that contains a hydroxyl terminated long-chain polyol disocyanate having a molecular weight of 1,000 3,000 and a chain extender as a main component.
  - 5. A signature panel according to claim 3 wherein said urethane resin is such that the chemical equivalent ratio of an isocyanato group to a hydroxyl group is less than unity.
- 6. A signature panel according to claim 3 wherein said thermoplastic resin contains vinyl chloride in an amount of 20 60 wt%.
  - 7. A signature panel according to claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers, ethylene/acrylic acid copolymers, ethylene/acrylic acid ester copolymers, mixtures thereof with a tackifier, and mixtures thereof with a tackifier and a wax.
  - 8. A signature panel according to claim 1 wherein said panel substrate is made of a material that is highly permeable to alcohols, organic solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants.
- 9. A process for producing a signature panel that comprises the steps of forming on the writing surface of a panel substrate a printed graphic pattern that will change upon exposure to alcohols, organic solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants, and laminating the other surface of the panel substrate with thermoplastic resin by extrusion or hot melt coating.
- 10. A process for producing a signature panel that comprises the steps of forming on the writing surface of a panel substrate a printed graphic pattern that will change upon exposure to alcohols, organic solvents, bleaching agents and surfactants, roll coating release paper with a thermoplastic resin dissolved in an organic solvent, removing the solvent by drying, and laminating the other surface of the panel substrate with the thermoplastic resin layer by thermal fusion.

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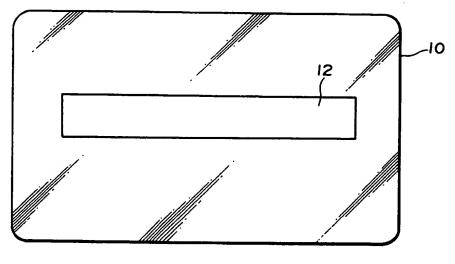
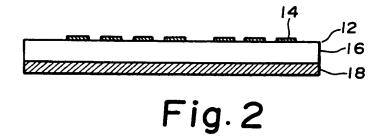
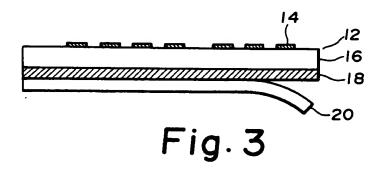
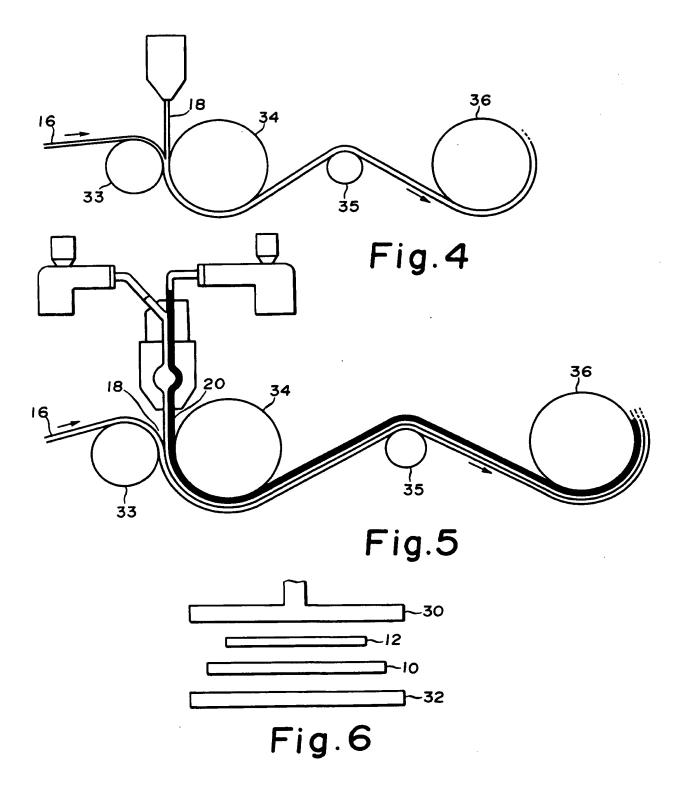


Fig.I









# **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

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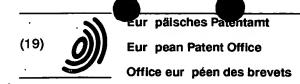
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Application Number

ΕP 91 11 5881

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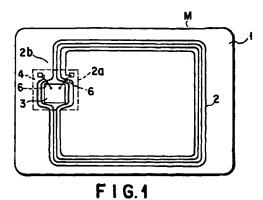
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### (54) Wireless module and wireless card

(57) A wireless module (M) has a module substrate (1) on which an LSI (3) is to be mounted and an antenna (2) mounted on the module substrate (1) in a coil form wound a plurality of times and connected to the LSI via terminals (2a, 2b) positioned on both ends thereof, for attaining non-contact data communication. The coil tiers constituting the antenna (2) are divided into two portions each having a plurality of tires in the vicinity of the LSI (3). The LSI (3) is positioned between the two divided portions. Terminals of the LSI are connected to both terminals (2a, 2b) of the antenna (2) by way of metal wires (6, 6).



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### Description

The present invention relates to a wireless module and a wireless card for use in a thin-layer electronic device involved in non-contact data-communication.

The functional portion of the thin-layer electronic device of this type consists of a wireless module and an antenna, which is a discrete member and connected to the wireless module with a solder or the like. The functional portion consisting of the wireless module and the antenna is incorporated in the card base member which is formed by a molding method or by a laminating method. In this manner, a card is formed.

The wireless module comprises a module substrate and an electronic part such as an LSI (hereinafter, referred to as "LSI") mounted on the module substrate.

However, the wireless module conventionally used does not have an antenna incorporated therein, so that the non-contact data communication cannot be attained.

Hence, to inspect the LSI of the wireless module, an antenna must be connected to the wireless module with a solder or the like. Therefore, disadvantageously long time is required for inspecting the LSI.

The LSI is conventionally positioned on an upper surface of the antenna or in the vicinity of the antenna.

However, if the LSI is positioned on the upper surface of the antenna, the LSI is easily broken along the antenna. If the LSI is positioned in the vicinity of the antenna, the LSI is mistakenly operated by the magnetic field generated from the antenna.

The present invention has been made in view of the aforementioned circumstances. An object of the present invention is to provide a wireless module and a wireless card which makes it possible to attain data communication by itself and to prevent breakage and misoperation of the electronic part.

The wireless module of the present invention comprises:

a module base on which an electronic part is to be mounted; and

an antenna mounted on the module base and connected to the electronic part via terminals arranged at both ends thereof, for attaining non-contact data communication.

Another wireless module of the present invention comprises:

a module base on which an electronic part is to be mounted; and

an antenna mounted on the module base in the form of a coil wound a plurality of times and connected to the electronic part via the terminals arranged at both ends of the antenna, for attaining non-contact data communication,

in which the antenna (coil tiers) is divided

into two portions each having a plurality of tiers in the vicinity of the electronic part; the electronic part is positioned between the two divided portions of the antenna, and the terminals of the electronic part are respectively connected to each of terminals of the antenna via a conductive body.

A wireless card of the present invention comprises:

a wireless module including

a module base on which an electronic part is to be mounted; and

an antenna mounted on the module base and connected to the electronic part via terminals arranged at both ends thereof, for attaining non-contact data communication; and

a card base on which the wireless module is to be mounted.

Another wireless card of the present invention comprises:

a wireless module including

a module base on which an electronic part is to be mounted; and

an antenna mounted on the module base and connected to the electronic part via terminals arranged at both ends thereof, for attaining non-contact data communication; and

a card base on which the wireless module is to be mounted,

in which the antenna (coil tiers) is divided into two portions each having a plurality of tiers in the vicinity of the electronic part; the electronic part is positioned between the two divided portions of the antenna, and the terminals of the electronic part are respectively connected to each of terminals of the antenna via conductive bodies.

In the present invention, the wireless module has an electronic part and an antenna mounted together on a module base. It is therefore possible to effect non-contact data communication by using the wireless module alone.

In the present invention, both terminals of the antenna are positioned in the vicinity of the electronic part so as to give a square or a circular shape after they are sealed. It is therefore possible to enhance the strength.

In the present invention, the antenna portion consisting of coil tiers positioned in the vicinity of the electronic part is divided into halves and the electronic part is positioned between the divided antenna portions. It is therefore to cancel out the magnetic fields generated by the antenna at both sides of the electronic part.

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the electronic part and the first electrode is electrically

connected to one of the terminals of the antenna with a

conductive adhesive agent; and a second electrode is

provided on the front surface of the electronic part and

the second electrode is electrically connected to the

other terminal of the antenna by a connecting member.

It is possible to reduce the number of the connecting

member between the electronic part and the antenna.

A first electrode is provided on the back surface of

the wireless module of FIG. 15 mounted thereon:

FIG. 17 is a plan view showing a wireless module according to a third embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 18 is a plan view showing a wireless card in which the wireless module of FIG. 17 is to be installed; and

FIG. 19 is a side cross-sectional view showing a wireless card of FIG. 18.

This summary of the invention does not necessarily describe all necessary features so that the invention may also be a sub-combination of these described fea-

The invention can be more fully understood from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

tures.

FIG. 1 is a plan view showing a wireless module according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a side cross-sectional view showing a first installment example of an LSI and an antenna on a module substrate;

FIG. 3 is a plan view showing a reel base to be used in manufacturing the wireless module;

FIG. 4 is a plan view showing a wireless card in which the wireless module of FIG. 1 is to be installed;

FIG. 5 is a side cross-sectional view showing a wireless card;

FIG. 6 is a side cross-sectional view showing a second installment example of an LSI and an antenna on a module substrate;

FIG. 7 is a plan view showing a third installment example of an LSI and an antenna on a module substrate;

FIG. 8 is a plan view showing a wireless card with the wireless module of FIG. 7 mounted thereon;

FIG. 9 is a plan view showing a fourth installment example an LSI and an antenna on a module substrate;

FIG. 10 is a plan view showing a wireless card with the wireless module of FIG. 9 mounted thereon;

FIG. 11 is a plan view showing a fifth installment example of an LSI and an antenna on a module substrate;

FIG. 12 is a plan view showing a sixth installment example of an LSI and an antenna on a module substrate:

FIG. 13 is a plan view showing a wireless card with the wireless module of FIG. 12 mounted thereon;

FIG. 14 is a plan view showing a wireless module according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 15 is a side cross-sectional view showing an installment example of an LSI and an antenna in the wireless module of FIG. 14;

FIG. 16 is a plan view showing a wireless card with

Now, the present invention will be explained with reference to an embodiment shown in FIGS. 1 to 5.

FIG. 1 is a plan view showing a wireless module M.

The wireless module M has a module substrate 1 as a base. The module substrate 1 is formed of a glass epoxy of 0.2 mm thick. An antenna 2 is mounted on the lower surface of the module substrate 1. The antenna 2 is arranged in the form of a coil wound a plurality of times and integrally attached to the module substrate 1.

FIG. 2 is a side cross-sectional view showing a first installment example of an LSI 3 and the antenna 2 on the wireless module M.

A device hole 5 is formed through the module substrate 1. An electronic part, an LSI 3 is placed in the device hole 5. Both terminals 2a, 2b of the antenna 2 are connected to the LSI 3 by way of conductive metal wires 6, 6. The LSI 3 and the metal wires 6, 6 are sealed with a resin agent 4. The terminals 2a, 2b of the antenna 2 are respectively abutted against each of the sides of the LSI 3.

The antenna 2 (coil tiers) is arranged in a bundle form until it approaches the LSI 3 and then divided symmetrically into right and left portions (each having uniform numbers of tiers) to avoid overlapping the LSI 3.

Therefore, the metal wires 6, 6 connected to the LSI at one end is connected at the other end to terminals 2a, 2b of the antenna 2 so as to sandwich the antenna tiers. Since the metal wires 6, 6 and both terminals 2a, 2b of the antenna 2 are abutted against LSI 3, the resinsealed shape of them can be reduced in size.

FIG. 3 is a plan view showing a reel base 21 for use in manufacturing the wireless module M.

The reel base 21 is formed of a glass epoxy substrate of 0.2 mm thick and 35 mm width.

The wireless module M is formed as follows: the LSI 3, the antenna 2, and the metal wires 6, 6 are mounted on the reel base 21 so that two module substrates 1 can be juxtaposed on the reel base 21 in the width direction. Then, the LSI 3 and the metal wires 6, 6 are sealed with the resin agent 4. Thereafter, the reel base 21 is punched out in accordance with an outline shape of the module substrate.

FIGS. 4 and 5 respectively show a plan view and a cross-sectional view of a wireless card K.

The wireless card K has a card base 11 incorporating a wireless module M manufactured as described above therein.

The card base 11 consists of front and back sheet

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materials 12, 13 and a resin layer 14 interposed between the front and back sheet materials 12, 13. The wireless module M is embedded in the resin layer 14. The front and back sheet materials 12, 13 are polyethylene terephthalate (PET) sheets of 100  $\mu$ m in thickness and respectively adhered onto the front and back surfaces of the resin layer 14 with an adhesive agent 14.

According to this embodiment, the LSI 3 and the antenna 2 are mounted on the module substrate 1 of the wireless module M. It is therefore possible to effect noncontact data communication by using the wireless module alone.

Hence, LSI 3 can be inspected by using the wireless module alone. More specifically, LSI 3 can be inspected without connecting an antenna externally to the wireless module, unlike in the conventional case. This means that the inspection of LSI can be made simpler.

Both terminals 2a, 2b of the antenna 2 are respectively arranged on each of both sides of LSI 3. Therefore, after sealing with the resin agent 4, the sealed shape of both terminals and the antenna takes a symmetrical form such as a square or a circle. As a result, the strength against bending can be improved.

The antenna 2 is arranged in a bundle form until it approaches the LSI 3 and is then divided symmetrically into right and left portions (each having a uniform number of tiers) to avoid overlapping the LSI 3. It follows that magnetic fields generated from the antenna 2 at both sides of the LSI 3 are canceled out each other, preventing misoperation of LSI 3.

Since the LSI 3 is installed by inserting it into the device hole 5, the resultant structure can be reduced by the thickness (0.2 mm) of the module substrate 1.

FIG. 6 shows a second installment example of the LSI 3 and the antenna 2 on the module substrate 1.

In this example, the LSI 3 and the antenna 2 are mounted on the upper surface of the module substrate 1. As a result, the resultant structure is formed thicker by the thickness of the module substrate 1, as compared to that of the first installment example.

FIG. 7 shows a third installment example of the LSI 3 and the antenna 2.

In this example, the antenna 2 is arranged in a coil form wound an even number of times (6 times). The antenna coil tiers are divided into right and left halves (three tiers) in the vicinity of the LSI 3. In this embodiment, unlike the first installment example, the antenna 2 is not arranged in a bundle form but arranged in the half-divided form (each having three tiers) before approaching the LSI 3. The LSI 3 are arranged on a solid pattern 7 which is not electrically connected to the antenna 2 and therefore free from effects of antenna 2.

FIG. 8 is a fourth installment example of the LSI 3 and the antenna 2.

In this example, the antenna 2 is arranged in a coil form wound an odd number of times (five times). A pattern 2A serving as a mounting base for LSI is formed on

a third round tier. The LSI 3 is mounted on the pattern 2A and fixed thereon with an insulating adhesive agent.

FIG. 10 is a plan view showing a wireless card with the wireless module M of FIG. 9 mounted thereon;

FIG. 11 is a fifth installment example of the LSI 3 and the antenna 2. Both terminals 2a, 2b of the antenna are arranged at a far distance around the LSI 3. As a result, the LSI sealed with the resin agent 4 results in a rectangular form.

FIG. 12 is a sixth installment example of the LSI 3 and the antenna 2.

In this example, the LSI 3 is arranged diagonally to the horizontal line so as to appear diamond-shaped and so as to allow a pair of corner portions of LSI facing each other to correspond to the winding shape of the antenna coil tiers. The both terminals 2a, 2b of the antenna 2 are positioned in the vicinity of both sides of one of another pair of corner portions of the LSI 3 so as to sandwich the antenna coil tiers. It follows that the resin-sealed shape of the LSI 3 with the resin agent 4 takes a square, improving the bending strength over the resin-sealed shape of FIG. 11.

FIG. 14 is a plan view showing a wireless module M according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 15 is a side cross-sectional view showing an installment example of the LSI 3 and the antenna 2.

In this example, a contact electrode 3a serving as a first electrode is provided on the back surface of the LSI 3. The contact electrode 3a is electrically connected to one of terminals 2a of the antenna 2 with a conductive adhesive agent 9. Furthermore, a pad 3b serving as a second electrode is provided on the upper surface of the LSI 3. The pad 3b is connected to one of terminals 2b of the antenna 2 with a metal wire 10 serving as a conductive connecting member. In this way, a wireless module M attaining wireless communication is formed.

In this example, it is possible to lower latent malfunctions by reducing the connecting portions with a metal wire 10, thereby improving reliability of the LSI 3.

FIG. 16 is plan view showing a wireless card with the wireless module M of FIG. 14 mounted thereon.

FIG. 17 is a plan view showing a wireless module M according to a third embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, a coil antenna 8 serving as an auxiliary antenna is provided on the antenna 2 mounted on the module substrate 1 of the wireless module M. The coil antenna 8 is larger than the antenna 2. Both ends of the coil antenna 8 are electrically connected to the antenna 2 of the wireless module M with a solder or a conductive paste. As the coil antenna 8, a wind coil is used.

According to the embodiment, the antenna can be formed larger. It is therefore possible to extend a communication distance, drastically.

FIGS. 18 and 19 are respectively a plan view and a side cross-sectional view of a wireless card K in which a wireless module M of FIG. 17 is installed.

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A card base 11 of the wireless card K consists of frond and back sheet materials 12, 13 and a resin layer 14 interposed between the front and back sheet materials 12, 13, similarly to the case shown in FIG. 5. The wireless module M of FIG. 17 and the coil antenna 8 are 5 embedded in the resin layer 14.

### Claims

- 1. A wireless module characterized by comprising:
  - a module base (1) on which an electronic part (3) is to be mounted; and an antenna (2) mounted on the module base (1) and connected to the electronic part (3) via terminals arranged at both ends thereof, for attaining non-contact data communication.
- The wireless module according to claim 1, characterized in that the terminals (2a, 2b) of the antenna (2) are arranged in the vicinity of the electronic part (3).
- 3. The wireless module according to claim 1, characterized in that the electronic part (3) has a first electrode (3a) on a back surface thereof and a second electrode (3b) on a front surface thereof, the first electrode (3a) being connected to one (2a) of the terminals of the antenna (2) via a conductive adhesive agent (9) and the second electrode (3b) being connected to the other terminal (2b) of the antenna with the conductive connecting member (10).
- The wireless module according to claim 1, characterized by further comprising an auxiliary antenna

   (8) connected to the antenna (2), the auxiliary antenna (8) having a different outline size from the antenna (2).
- 5. A wireless module comprising:

a module base (1) on which an electronic part is to be mounted; and an antenna (2) mounted on the module base (1) in the form of a coil wound a plurality of times and connected to the electronic part (3)

times and connected to the electronic part (3) via the terminals (2a, 2b) arranged at both ends of the antenna (2), for attaining non-contact data communication,

characterized in that the antenna (2) (coil tiers) is divided into two portions each having a plurality of tiers in the vicinity of the electronic part (3); the electronic part (3) is positioned between the two divided portions of the antenna, and the terminals of the electronic part (3) are respectively connected to each of terminals (2a, 2b) of the antenna (2) via conductive bodies (6, 6).

- 6. The wireless module according to claim 5, characterized in that the antenna (2) is arranged in the form of a coil wound an even number of times and divided into halves in the vicinity of the electronic part (3), thereby sandwiching the electronic part.
- 7. The wireless module according to claim 5, characterized in that the antenna (2) is arranged in the form of a coil wound an odd number of times, a central tier of the coil is located under a mounting portion for the electronic part (3), other tiers are divided into halves so as to sandwich the mounting portion (7) for the electronic part (3) therebetween, and the electronic part (3) is mounted on the mounting portion (7) with an insulating adhesive agent.
- 8. The wireless module according to claim 5, characterized in that the terminals of the electronic part (3) are connected to the terminals (2a, 2b) of antenna (2) respectively at the outer sides of the antenna coil tiers (2) via a connecting member (6) so as to sandwich the antenna coil tiers (2).
- 9. The wireless module according to claim 5, characterized in that one pair of corner portions of the electronic part (3) facing each other are allowed to correspond the winding shape of the antenna coil tiers (2) and the antenna terminals (2a, 2b) are connected to the terminals of the electronic part (3) via a connecting member (6) at one of another pair of corner portions.
- 10. A wireless card characterized by comprising:
  - a wireless module (M) including

a module base (1) on which an electronic part (3) is to be mounted; and an antenna (2) mounted on the module base (1) and connected to the electronic part (3) via terminals (2a, 2b) arranged at both ends thereof, for attaining non-contact data communication; and a card base (11) on which the wireless module (M) is to be mounted.

- 11. The wireless card according to claim 10, characterized in that the terminals (2a, 2b) of the antenna (2) are arranged in the vicinity of the electronic part (3).
- 12. The wireless card according to claim 10, characterized in that the electronic part (3) has a first electrode (3a) on a back surface thereof and a second electrode (3b) on a front surface thereof, the first electrode (3a) being connected to one (2a) of the terminals of the antenna via a conductive adhesive agent (9) and the second electrode (3b) being connected to the other terminal (2b) of the antenna with



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the conductive connecting member (10).

- 13. The wireless card according to claim 10, characterized by further comprising an auxiliary antenna (8) connected to the antenna (2), the auxiliary antenna (8) having a different outline size from the antenna (2).
- 14. A wireless card comprising:

### a wireless module (M) including

a module base (1) on which an electronic part (3) is to be mounted; and an antenna (2) mounted on the module base (1) and connected to the electronic part (3) via terminals (2a, 2b) arranged at both ends thereof, for attaining non-contact data communication; and a card base (11) on which the wireless

characterized in that the antenna (2) (coil tiers) is divided into two portions each having a plurality of tiers in the vicinity of the electronic part (2), the electronic part (3) is positioned between two divided portions of the antenna, and terminals of the electronic part (3) are respectively connected to both terminals (2a, 2b) of the antenna via conductive bodies (6, 6).

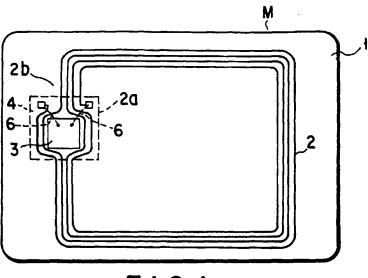
15. The wireless card according to claim 14, characterized in that the antenna (2) is arranged in the form of a coil wound an even number of times and divided into halves in the vicinity of the electronic part (3), thereby sandwiching the electronic part (3).

module (M) is to be mounted.

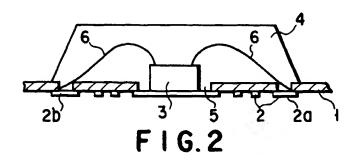
- 16. The wireless card according to claim 14, characterized in that the antenna (2) is arranged in the form of a coil wound an odd number of times, a central tier of the coil is located under a mounting portion (7) for the electronic part (3), other tiers are divided into halves so as to sandwich the mounting portion (7) for the electronic part (3), and the electronic part (3) is mounted on the mounting portion with an insulating adhesive agent.
- 17. The wireless card according to claim 14, characterized in that the terminals of the electronic part (3) are connected to the terminals (2a, 2b) of antenna (2) respectively at the outer sides of the antenna coil tiers (2) via a connecting member (6) so as to sandwich the antenna coil tiers (2).
- 18. The wireless card according to claim 14, characterized in that one pair of corner portions of the electronic part (3) facing each other are allowed to

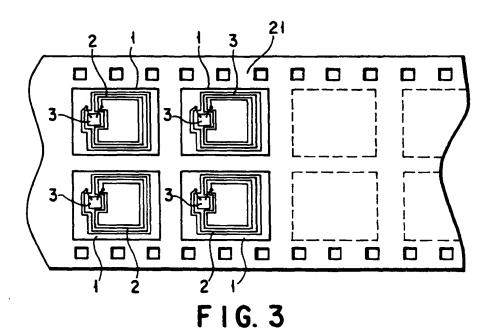
correspond the winding shape of the antenna coil tiers (2) and the antenna terminals (2a, 2b) are connected to the terminals of the electronic part (3) via a connecting member (6) at one of another pair of corner portions.

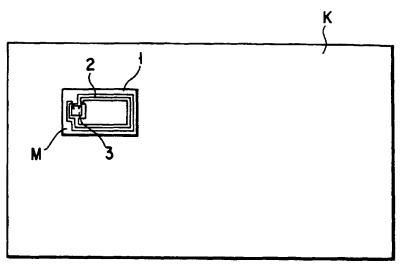
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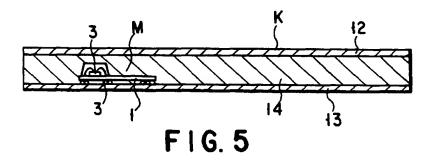
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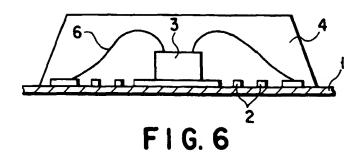


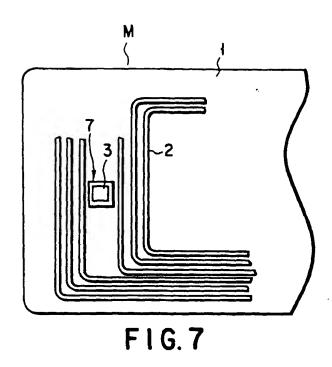


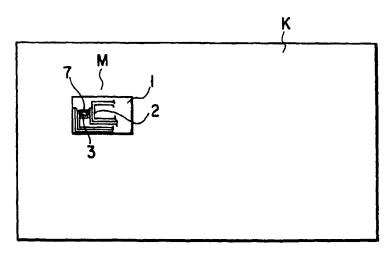


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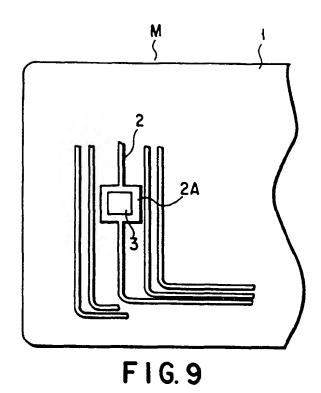


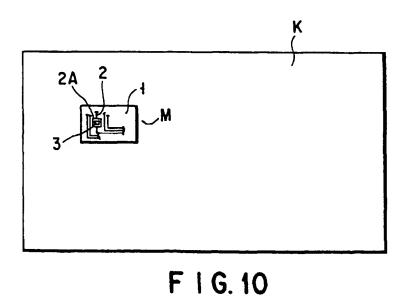


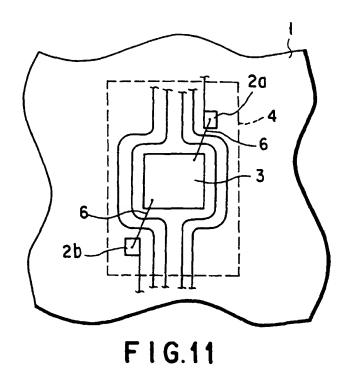


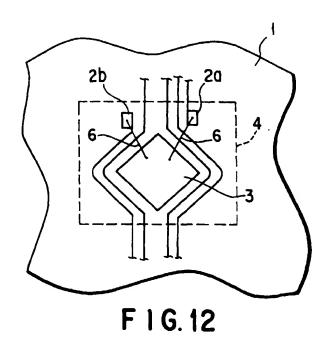


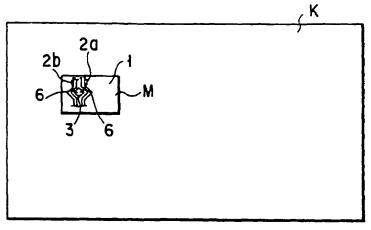
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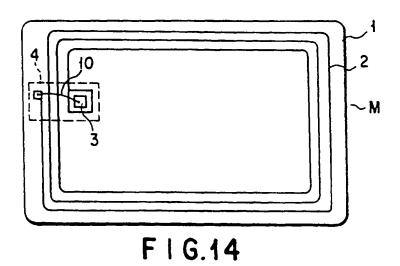




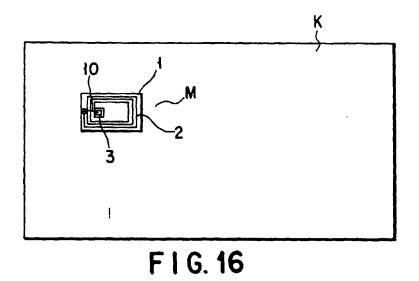


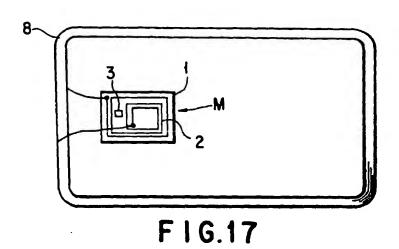


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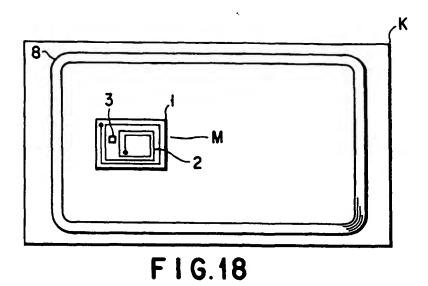


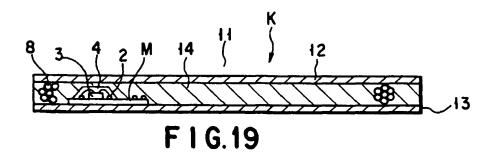
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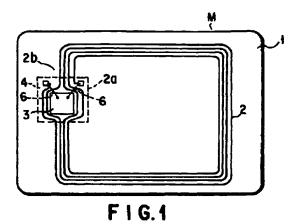
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#### (54)Wireless module and wireless card

A wireless module (M) has a module substrate (1) on which an LSI (3) is to be mounted and an antenna (2) mounted on the module substrate (1) in a coil form wound a plurality of times and connected to the LSI via terminals (2a, 2b) positioned on both ends thereof, for attaining non-contact data communication. The coil tiers constituting the antenna (2) are divided into two portions each having a plurality of tires in the vicinity of the LSI (3). The LSI (3) is positioned between the two divided portions. Terminals of the LSI are connected to both terminals (2a, 2b) of the antenna (2) by way of metal wires (6, 6).







## **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number EP 98 11 0699

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|-------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Category          | Citation of document with ir of relevant pass   | ndication, where appropriate, ages                | Relevant<br>to claim              | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IntCl.6) |
| X                 | US 5 308 967 A (JUR<br>3 May 1994<br>* abstract; figure   |   | 1,2,4,5,<br>10,11,<br>13,14       | G06K19/07                                   |
|                   | * column 2, line 53   | - line 61 *                                       |                                   |   |
| Х                 | US 4 200 227 A (LEM<br>29 April 1980<br>* column 1, line 24<br>* column 4, line 1                       | - line 35 *                                       | 1,2,4,<br>10,11,13                |   |
| A                 | EP 0 737 935 A (SON<br>16 October 1996<br>* abstract *  | Y CHEMICALS CORP)                                 | 3,12                              |   |
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|                   |   |   |                                   | TECHNICAL FIELDS<br>SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)     |
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|                   | The present search report has t   | peen drawn up for all claims                      |                                   |   |
|                   | Place of search   | Date of completion of the search                  | L                                 | Examiner                                    |
|                   | THE HAGUE   | 11 December 1998                                  | LIN                               | DHOLM, A                                    |
|                   | TEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS   | T : theory or principle<br>E : earlier patent doc | ument, but publis                 |   |
| Y : parti<br>docu | cularly relevant if taken alone<br>cularly relevant if combined with anoth<br>ment of the same category | L : document cited fo                             | the application<br>rother reasons |   |
| O : non-          | nological background<br>written disclosure<br>mediate document  | & : member of the sa<br>document                  | me patent family,                 |   |

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

### ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 98 11 0699

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-12-1998

| Publication date                                     | Patent family member(s)                         |                      | Publication date | Patent document cited in search report |         |    |
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| 30-04-1992<br>15-06-1997<br>14-05-1992<br>14-10-1992 | 4034225 A<br>153790 T<br>9208209 A<br>0507903 A | DE<br>AT<br>WO<br>EP | 03-05-1994       | A                                      | 5308967 | US |
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|  | 3703032 A                                       |                      |                  |  |         |    |
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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## TRANSLATION OF ANNEX TO

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

plastic. However, because of the differences between the coefficients of expansion of the various materials used, the combined action of the pressure and temperature causes a residual deformation at the surface of the card. And the remedy for this deformation is very onerous in terms of production, since it consists of substantially extending the cycle time, notably the cooling. Another drawback of these cards is their mediocre ability to resist repeated bending stresses.

The document US-5,387,306 describes the manufacture of a smart card comprising the integration of a support sheet between two external sheets. A resin and hardener are injected in a flat tube formed by coatings covering the two faces of a middle layer comprising a chip and an antenna. The assembly is then held in a forming mould for the time required for the resin to harden.

The document EP-0,467,636 describes the manufacture of an element intended to be attached to a card. This element is a panel, such as a label, intended to receive a signature. It is formed from a layer of paper on which the signature is placed and a layer of thermoplastic resin intended for joining them to the body of the destination card.

In the document EP-A-0 640 940 in the name of N.V. Nederlandsche Apparentfabriek NEDAP, a solution is

proposed to this double problem according to which an intermediate layer with a support function for the functional means of the card is interposed between two surface layers, each of the latter being fixed to the intermediate layer by a connecting layer having a lower softening temperature. This method however has the disadvantage of containing a large number of steps and therefore of being fairly complex to implement.

The present invention proceeds from a search for a novel solution of manufacturing integrated circuit media of the contactless type in order to surmount the aforementioned problems, at the same time as satisfying other objectives of automation of the manufacture and mass production at a high rate.

To this end, the invention consists of a method of manufacturing an integrated circuit medium of the type

in a drop of resin 8. All these operations relating to the chip 5 and the winding 6 can therefore be carried out in line, in a manner which is very largely if not completely automated. In a simpler form, the winding 6 can form an integral part of the electronic unit 5, which reduces the assembly operation to the simple fixing of the latter to the film 10.

In Fig. 2, there also appears on the film 10 a periphery 11 in fine dot and dash lines surrounding the functional assembly consisting of the chip 5 and the winding 6, and which indicates the cut which will be made finally to the format of the final product to be obtained. Notably in the case where the central core is completely embedded in the extruded material, the cut is advantageously made following a marking by detection of the means 5, 6 through the material (for example by radio, ultrasound, etc).

Fig. 3 is essentially identical to Fig. 2 and consequently includes the same reference signs designate the same elements. Recesses 12 provided in the film 10 at the location of each future card, before or after the arrangement of the equipment assemblies 5, 6, have merely been shown in addition. The recesses 12 are provided as a communication passage between the front and rear faces of the film 10, which will therefore enable the extrusion material distributed without any break in continuity around the film, therefore constituting the surface layers 2 and 3

joined together in a monolithic fashion. By providing

- 10. A method according to Claim 8 or 9, characterised in that, prior to the step of extruding the layers (2, 3), a winding (6) with the functions of an antenna and supply coil for the chip (5) is produced by metallisation on the core (1).
- 11. A method according to Claim 10, characterised in that the chip (5) is glued to the said central core, and its contacts are connected to two wires (7) for connection to the said winding (6), the assembly consisting of the chip (5) and the connected wires (7) being embedded in a drop of resin (8).
- 12. A method according to Claim 11, characterised in that the two operations of producing the winding (6) and mounting the chip (5) are carried out continuously on a film (10) packaged as a coil (B) to be unwound continuously and constituting the said central core.
- 13. An integrated circuit medium of the contactless type, such as a contactless smart card, obtained by the method according to one of Claims 1 to 12.
- 14. An integrated circuit medium of the contactless type, such as a contactless smart card, having a central sheet (1) for supporting functional means (5, 6), and bottom and top layers (2, 3), characterised in that the said central support sheet

(1) has at least one opening (12) through which the bottom (2) and top (3) layers communicate, the material of the bottom and top layers (2, 3) having, with the material situated in the said opening (12), at least one homogeneous molecular continuity constituting one and the same material, the said bottom (2) and top (3) layers being obtained by extrusion.







### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

|   | (PCT Article   | 36 and Rule 70)  | 9/807885  |  |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference GEM0562   | FOR FURTHER AC   | CTION SeeNotificationofTransmittalofInternational Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) |   |  |  |
| International application No. PCT/FR00/01263  | International filing dat   |  |   |  |  |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or r<br>G06K 19/077   | national classification an   | d IPC  |   |  |  |
| Applicant   | GEME   | PLUS   |   |  |  |
| This international preliminary examand is transmitted to the applicant a  | nination report has been percording to Article 36.   | prepared by this Intern  | national Preliminary Examining Authority  |  |  |
| 2. This REPORT consists of a total of   | 5 sheets,  | including this cover s   | heet.   |  |  |
| This report is also accompan amended and are the basis for 70.16 and Section 607 of the                               | or this report and/or sheet  | ts containing rectifica  | on, claims and/or drawings which have been tions made before this Authority (see Rule |  |  |
| These annexes consist of a to   | otal of 5  | sheets.  |   |  |  |
| IV Lack of unity of inv  V Reasoned statement citations and explain  VI Certain documents  VII Certain defects in the | of opinion with regard to<br>vention<br>t under Article 35(2) wit<br>nations supporting such s | o novelty, inventive statement   | ep and industrial applicability eventive step or industrial applicability;            |  |  |
| Date of submission of the demand  |  | Date of completion of  | of this report  |  |  |
| 12 December 2000 (12  | .12.00)  | 15   | May 2001 (15.05.2001)   |  |  |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP   |  | Authorized officer   |   |  |  |
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### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

rnational application No.

### PCT/FR00/01263

| I. I | I. Basis of the report |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1.   | With                   | regard to the elements of the international application:*  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | the international application as originally filed  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | $\boxtimes$            | the description:   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | _                      | pages 1,3-8,10   | )   | , as originally filed  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages  |   | , filed with the demand  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages 2,2a,9   | _, filed with the letter of _   | 28 February 2001 (28.02.2001)  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | $\nabla$               | the claims:  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages 1-9  |   | , as originally filed  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages  | , as amended (togethe   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages  |   | , filed with the demand  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | · ·  | , filed with the letter of  | 28 February 2001 (28.02.2001)  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | $\nabla$               |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | the drawings:  |   | as ariginally filed  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages  |   | , as originally filed , filed with the demand                            |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages  | filed with the letter of  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages  | _, med with the letter of _   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | the sequence listing part of the description:  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages  |   | , filed with the demand  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | pages  | _, filed with the letter of _   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.   | the in                 | h regard to the language, all the elements marked above were international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated use elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of in the language of publication of the international application (the language of the translation furnished for the purposes or 55.3). | inder this item. following language iternational search (under R under Rule 48.3(b)). | which is:<br>ule 23.1(b)).   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.   | With preli             | th regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence iminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequen  | e disclosed in the internatice listing:   | tional application, the international                                    |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | 닊                      | contained in the international application in written form.  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | $\vdash$               |  | filed together with the international application in computer readable form.          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | H                      | furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | $\vdash$               | furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readab  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | The statement that the information recorded in computer been furnished.  | readable form is identical  | I to the written sequence listing has                                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.   |                        | The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:   |   | :  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | the description, pages   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | the claims, Nos.   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        | the drawings, sheets/fig   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.   |                        | This report has been established as if (some of) the amenda beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplement   | nents had not been made, s<br>ntal Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**                              | ince they have been considered to go                                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| *    | in th                  | lacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Oj<br>his report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to th<br>'70.17).  | ffice in response to an invit<br>iis report since they do n                           | ation under Article 14 are referred to ot contain amendments (Rule 70.16 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **   |                        | replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referr  | red to under item 1 and ann   | exed to this report.   |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |                        |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| v. | Reasoned statement under Article 3 citations and explanations supporting | 5(2) with regard to novelty,<br>ng such statement | , inventive step or industrial appl | licability; |
|----|--|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Statement  |   |                                     |             |
|    | Novelty (N)  | Claims  | 1-14                                | YES         |
|    |  | Claims  |                                     | NO          |
|    | Inventive step (IS)  | Claims  | 1-14                                | YES         |
|    |  | Claims  |                                     | NO          |
|    | Industrial applicability (IA)  | Claims  | 1-14                                | YES         |
|    |  | Claims  |                                     | NO NO       |

2. Citations and explanations

1.1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-5 387 306 D2: EP-A-0 476 636

- 1.2 The present invention (Claim 1) essentially relates to a method for producing contactless integrated circuit supports, in which a support sheet for functional means (electronic unit and antenna) is associated with one or two covering layer(s) produced by extrusion, immediately upon contact with said support sheet. It also relates to an integrated circuit support (Claims 13 and 14) produced by said method.
- 1.3 Independent Claims 1 and 14 are properly delimited relative to the prior art mentioned on page 2 (EP-A-0 640 940) according to which an intermediate layer serving as a support for the functional means is placed between two surface layers, each being attached to the intermediate layer by a linking layer having a lower softening temperature. This operation is rather complex.

1.4 D1 describes the molding of a support sheet with electronic elements in a polymerizable liquid resin between two external sheets.

D2 describes a paper-based support assembly with a layer of thermoplastic resin deposited by extrusion. Although D1 describes the production of a card in which a support sheet is incorporated between two external sheets, it absolutely does not suggest depositing an external layer by extrusion.

Although D2 describes the deposit by extrusion of a thermoplastic layer on a card, said card or substrate only consists of a paper support without any functional element; said document does not relate at all to an integrated circuit card, and therefore, the production thereof does not present the same problems.

Consequently, a person skilled in the art would not have any reason to combine the teaching of D2 with that of D1.

Therefore, independent Claim 1 relating to a method, as well as dependent Claims 2 to 12 and Claims 13 and 14 relating to a support produced according to said method, are considered to satisfy the requirements of novelty and inventive step of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).

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### VIII. Certain observations n the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

The description should have been made consistent with the new filed claims, in particular with Claim 14, as stipulated by PCT Rule 5.1(a) (iii).



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PCT

### **PCT**

# Not part Page RAPPORT D'EXAMEN PRELIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL

(article 36 et règle 70 du PCT)

| Référence<br>mandataire<br>GEM562  | €  | ssier du déposant ou du                                | POUR SUITE A D              | ONNER                  |                                    | ication de transmission du rapport d'examen<br>e international (formulaire PCT/IPEA/416)   |  |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Demande internationale n°  |  | Date du dépot internation                              | onal (jour/m                | ois/année)             | Date de priorité (jour/mois/année) |  |  |
| PCT/FR00/01263   |  |  | 11/05/2000                  |                        |                                    | 12/05/1999   |  |
| Classificati<br>G06K19/  |  | ernationale des brevets (CIB)                          | ou à la fois classification | nationale e            | et CIB                             |  |  |
| Déposant   |  |  | ····                        |                        |                                    |  |  |
| GEMPLU   | JS et  | al.  |                             |                        |                                    |  |  |
|  |  | rapport d'examen prélim<br>al, est transmis au dépos   |                             |                        | dministarati                       | on chargée de l'examen préliminaire  |  |
| 2. Ce R.   | APPO   | ORT comprend 5 feuilles,                               | y compris la présente       | feuille de             | couverture.                        |  |  |
| é<br>t'<br>a   | Il est accompagné d'ANNEXES, c'est-à-dire de feuilles de la description, des revendications ou des dessins qui ont été modifiées et qui servent de base au présent rapport ou de feuilles contenant des rectifications faites auprès de l'administration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international (voir la règle 70.16 et l'instruction 607 des Instructions administratives du PCT).  Ces annexes comprennent 5 feuilles. |  |                             |                        |                                    |  |  |
| 3. Le pre  | ésent  | rapport contient des indi                              | cations relatives aux p     | oints suiva            | ants:                              |  |  |
| 1  | $\boxtimes$  | Base du rapport  |                             |                        |                                    | ·  |  |
| 11   | _  | Priorité   |                             |                        |                                    |  |  |
| 111  |  | Absence de formulation<br>d'application industrielle   |                             | ouveauté,              | l'activité inv                     | ventive et la possibilité  |  |
| IV   |  | Absence d'unité de l'inv                               | •                           |                        |                                    |  |  |
| V  | ⊠  | Déclaration motivée sele<br>d'application industrielle |                             |                        |                                    | rité inventive et la possibilité<br>déclaration  |  |
| VI   |  | Certains documents cité                                | es                          |                        |                                    |  |  |
| VII  |  | Irrégularités dans la den                              | nande internationale        |                        |                                    |  |  |
| VIII   | VIII 🛮 Observations relatives à la demande internationale  |  |                             |                        |                                    |  |  |
| Date de présentation de la demande d'examen préliminaire  Date d'achèvement du présent rapport |  |  |                             |                        |                                    |  |  |
| internationale   |  |  |                             |                        |                                    |  |  |
| 12/12/2000   |  |  |                             | 13.03.20               | 01                                 | i  |  |
|  |  | ostale de l'administration cha<br>aire international:  | argée de                    | Fonctionnaire autorisé |                                    |  |  |
| <u>)</u> ))  | Office européen des brevets D-80298 Munich Tél. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d  |  |                             |                        | rg, C                              | A Company of the Comp |  |
|  | Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465  |  |                             | N° de télé             | ephone +49 8                       | 9 2399 2590  |  |

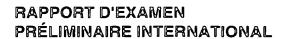


## RAPPORT D'EXAMEN PRÉLIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL

Demande internationale n° PCT/FR00/01263

### I. Base du rapport

| ١. | Da   | base du l'appoit  |  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | En ce qui concerne les <b>éléments</b> de la demande internationale ( <i>les feuilles de remplacement qui ont été remises</i> à l'office récepteur en réponse à une invitation faite conformément à l'article 14 sont considérées dans le présent rapport comme "initialement déposées" et ne sont pas jointes en annexe au rapport puisqu'elles ne contiennent pas de modifications (règles 70.16 et 70.17)): |   |  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | De   | scription, pages:   |  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | 1,3  | -8,10   | version initiale   |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | 2,2  | 69  | reçue(s) le  | 28/02/2001                       | avec la lettre du                                  | 21/02/2001   |  |  |  |
|    | Re   | vendications, N°:   |  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | 1-9  | 1   | version initiale   |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | 10-  | 14  | reçue(s) le  | 28/02/2001                       | avec la lettre du                                  | 21/02/2001   |  |  |  |
|    | De   | ssins, feuilles:  |  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | 1/2  | ,2/2  | version initiale   |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    |  |   |  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | lui d  | ce qui concerne la l<br>ont été remis dans la<br>née sous ce point. | angue, tous les éléments indiq<br>a langue dans laquelle la dema | ués ci-dessus<br>nde internation | étaient à la disposition<br>nale a été déposée, sa | n de l'administration ou<br>auf indication contraire |  |  |  |
|    | Ces  | s éléments étaient à  | la disposition de l'administratio                                | n ou lui ont ét                  | é remis dans la langue                             | e suivante: , qui est :                              |  |  |  |
|    |  | la langue d'une tra   | duction remise aux fins de la re                                 | cherche interr                   | nationale (selon la règ                            | le 23.1(b)).   |  |  |  |
|    |  | la langue de public   | ation de la demande internation                                  | nale (selon la                   | règle 48.3(b)).                                    |  |  |  |  |
|    |  | la langue de la trac<br>55.3).                                      | duction remise aux fins de l'exa                                 | men prélimina                    | ire internationale (seld                           | on la règle 55.2 ou                                  |  |  |  |
| 3. | B. En ce qui concerne les séquences de nucléotides ou d'acide aminés divulguées dans la demande internationale (le cas échéant), l'examen préliminaire internationale a été effectué sur la base du listage des séquences :  |   |  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    |  | contenu dans la demande internationale, sous forme écrite.          |  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | déposé avec la demande internationale, sous forme déchiffrable par ordinateur.   |   |  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    |  | remis ultérieureme  | nt à l'administration, sous forme                                | e écrite.                        |  |  |  |  |  |
|    |  | remis ultérieureme  | nt à l'administration, sous forme                                | e déchiffrable                   | par ordinateur.                                    |  |  |  |  |
|    | ☐ La déclaration, selon laquelle le listage des séquences par écrit et fourni ultérieurement ne va pas au-delà de la divulgation faite dans la demande telle que déposée, a été fournie.   |   |  |                                  |  |  |  |  |  |



Demande internationale n° PCT/FR00/01263

|                |  | La déclaration, selon<br>celles du listages de |                            |                                  |  | r ordinateur sont identiques à                             |  |
|----------------|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 4.             | 4. Les modifications ont entraîné l'annulation :   |  |                            |                                  |  |  |  |
|                |  | de la description,                             | pages :                    |                                  |  |  |  |
|                |  | des revendications,                            | n <sup>os</sup> :          |                                  |  |  |  |
|                |  | des dessins,                                   | feuilles :                 |                                  |  |  |  |
| 5.             | 5. Le présent rapport a été formulé abstraction faite (de certaines) des modifications, qui ont été considérées comme allant au-delà de l'exposé de l'invention tel qu'il a été déposé, comme il est indiqué ci-après (règle 70.2(c)): |  |                            |                                  |  | is, qui ont été considérées<br>est indiqué ci-après (règle |  |
|                |  | (Toute feuille de rem<br>annexée au présent    | placement comp<br>rapport) | ortant des modific               | ations de cette nature do                              | it être indiquée au point 1 et                             |  |
| 6.             | Obs  | ervations complémen                            | taires, le cas éch         | <br>néant :                      |  |  |  |
| V.             |  |  |                            |                                  | eauté, l'activité inventiv<br>pui de cette déclaration |  |  |
| 1. Déclaration |  |  |                            |                                  |  |  |  |
|                | Nou  | veauté   | Oui :<br>Non :             | Revendications<br>Revendications | 1-14   |  |  |
|                | Activ  | vité inventive                                 |                            | Revendications<br>Revendications | 1-14   |  |  |
|                | Poss   | sibilité d'application in                      |                            | Revendications<br>Revendications | 1-14   |  |  |
| 2              | Citor  | liana ak avaliaakia                            |                            |                                  |  |  |  |

2. Citations et explications voir feuille séparée

### VIII. Observations relatives à la demande internationale

Les observations suivantes sont faites au sujet de la clarté des revendications, de la description et des dessins et de la question de savoir si les revendications se fondent entièrement sur la description : voir feuille séparée

### I). CONCERNANT LE POINT V:

1.1) Il est fait référence aux documents suivants:

D1: US-A-5 387 306 D2: EP-A-0 476 636

- 1.2) La présente invention (revendication 1) concerne essentiellement un procédé de fabrication de supports de circuit intégré du type sans contact, dans lequel une feuille de support de moyens fonctionnels (bloc électronique et antenne) est associée à une ou deux couches de revêtement formée(s) par extrusion, immédiatement au contact de ladite feuille de support. Elle concerne également un support de circuit intégré (revendications 13 et 14) réalisé par ce procédé.
- 1.3) Les revendications indépendantes 1 et 14 sont correctement délimitées par rapport à l'état de la technique mentionné page 2 (EP-A-0 640 940) selon lequel une couche intermédiaire à fonction de support pour les moyens fonctionnels est interposée entre deux couches superficielles, chacune étant fixée à la couche intermédiaire par une couche de liaison ayant une température de ramollissement plus basse. Cette mise en oeuvre est assez complexe.
- 1.4) D1 décrit le moulage d'une feuille support avec des éléments électroniques dans une résine liquide polymérisable entre deux feuilles extérieures.

D2 décrit un assemblage d'un support à base de papier avec une couche de résine thermoplastique déposée par extrusion.

Bien que D1 décrive la fabrication d'une carte comprenant l'intégration d'une feuille support entre deux feuilles extérieures, il ne suggère absolument pas le dépôt d'une couche extérieure par extrusion.

Malgré que D2 décrive le dépôt par extrusion d'une couche thermoplastique sur une carte, cette carte ou substrat ne consiste qu'en un support papier dépourvu de tout élément fonctionnel; ce document ne concerne pas du tout une carte à circuit intégré, et de ce fait sa réalisation ne présente pas les mêmes problèmes. Par conséquent, l'homme de l'art n'aurait eu aucune incitation à combiner le savoir-faire de D2 avec celui de D1.

De ce fait, la revendication indépendante 1 concernant un procédé ainsi que les

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revendications dépendantes 2 à 12 et les revendications 13 et 14 concernant un support réalisé selon ledit procédé sont considérées satisfaire aux exigences de nouveauté et d'activité inventive des Articles 33(2)(3) PCT.

#### II). **CONCERNANT LE POINT VIII:**

La description aurait du être mise en concordance avec les nouvelles revendications déposée, notamment avec la revendication 14, comme l'exige la règle 5.1 a) iii) PCT.

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plastique. Mais du fait des différences entre coefficients de dilatation des divers matériaux utilisés, l'action combinée de la pression et de la température engendre une déformation résiduelle à la surface de la carte. Et le remède à cette déformation est très pénalisant en production, puisqu'il consiste à allonger sensiblement les temps de cycle, notamment le refroidissement. Un autre inconvénient de ces cartes est leur médiocre aptitude à résister à des sollicitations en flexion répétées. Il < 8 63>

Dans le document EP-A-0 640 940 au nom de N.V. Nederlandsche Apparentfabriek NEDAP, il est proposé une solution à ce double problème selon laquelle une couche intermédiaire à fonction de support pour les moyens fonctionnels de la carte est interposée entre deux couches superficielles, chacune de ces dernières étant fixée à la couche intermédiaire par une couche de liaison ayant une température de ramollissement plus basse. Ce procédé a toutefois le désavantage de comporter un grand nombre d'étapes et donc d'être de mise en oeuvre assez complexe.

La présente invention procède d'une recherche d'une nouvelle solution de fabrication de supports à circuit intégré du type sans contact pour surmonter les problèmes précités, en même temps que pour satisfaire à d'autres objectifs d'automatisation de la fabrication et de production en grande série à cadence élevée.

A cet effet, l'invention consiste en un procédé de fabrication d'un support de circuit intégré du type

2 bis

Le document US-5,387,306 décrit la fabrication d'une carte à puce comprenant l'intégration d'une feuille support entre deux feuilles extérieures. Une résine et un durcisseur sont injectés dans un tube plat formé par des revêtements recouvrant les deux faces d'une couche médiane comprenant une puce et une antenne. L'ensemble est ensuite maintenu dans un moule de formage le temps que la résine durcisse.

Le document EP-0,467,636 décrit la fabrication d'un élément destiné à être rapporté sur une carte. Cet élément est un panneau, tel une étiquette, destiné à recevoir une signature. Il est formé d'une couche de papier sur laquelle est apposée la signature et d'une couche de résine thermoplastique destinées à leur jonction sur le corps de la carte de destination.

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dans une goutte de résine 8. Toutes ces opérations relatives à la puce 5 et l'enroulement 6 peuvent donc être réalisées en ligne, de façon très largement, sinon complètement automatisée. Dans une forme plus simple, l'enroulement 6 peut faire partie intégrante du bloc électronique 5, ce qui réduit l'opération de montage à la simple fixation de celui-ci sur le film 10.

A la Fig. 2, apparaît en outre sur le film 10, un pourtour 11 en traits mixtes-fins entourant l'ensemble fonctionnel constitué par la puce 5 et de l'enroulement 6, et qui indique la coupe qui sera effectuée au final au format du produit final à obtenir. Notamment dans le cas où l'âme centrale est totalement noyée dans la matière extrudée, la découpe est avantageusement opérée suite à un repérage par détection des moyens 5, 6 à travers la matière (par exemple par radio, ultrasons, etc.).

La Fig. 3 est pour l'essentiel identique à la Fig. 2 et comporte par conséquent les mêmes signes de référence pour désigner les mêmes éléments. Ont été seulement représentés en plus des évidements 12 ménagés dans le film 10 à l'emplacement de chaque future carte, avant ou après l'agencement des ensembles d'équipement 5, 6. Les évidements 12 sont prévus en tant que passage de communication entre le recto et le verso du film 10, qui vont donc permettre à la matière d'extrusion de se répartir sans solution de continuité autour du film, constituant donc les couches superficielles 2 et 3 jointes entre elles de façon monolithique. En prévoyant

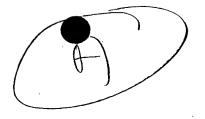
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- 10) Procédé selon la revendication 8 ou 9, caractérisé en ce que préalablement à l'étape d'extrusion des couches (2, 3), un enroulement (6) à fonctions d'antenne et de bobine d'alimentation pour la puce (5) est réalisé par métallisation sur l'âme (1).
- 11) Procédé selon la revendication 10, caractérisé en ce que la puce (5) est collée sur ladite âme centrale, et ses contacts sont reliés à deux fils (7) de connexion audit enroulement (6), l'ensemble de la puce (5) et des fils de connexion (7) étant noyé dans une goutte de résine (8).
  - 12) Procédé selon la revendication 11, caractérisé en ce que les deux opérations de réalisation de l'enroulement (6) et de montage de la puce (5) sont réalisées en continu sur un film (10) conditionné en bobine (B) à dérouler en continu et constituant ladite âme centrale.
- 13) Support de circuit intégré du type sans contact, tel que carte à puce sans contact, obtenu par le procédé selon l'une des revendications 1 à 12.
- 14) Support de circuit intégré de type sans contact, tel que carte à puce sans contact, comportant une feuille centrale (1) de support de moyens fonctionnels (5, 6), et des couches inférieure et supérieure (2, 3), caractérisé en ce que ladite feuille centrale de support (1) présente au moins une ouverture (12) au travers de laquelle communiquent les teux couches inférieure (2) et supérieure (3), la matière des couches inférieure et supérieure (2, 3) présentant avec

la matière se trouvant dans ladite ouverture (12) au moins une continuité moléculaire homogène et constitutive d'un seul et même matériau, les dites couches in férieure et supérieure (3) etant obtenves par extrusion.





Mr BERTRAND Pierre « La Caravelle » 13, rue Alexandre Rossat 13200 CASSIS

Gèmenos, le 7 septembre 2001

Envoi par courrier AR 1101 2998 5FR

OBJET:

Pouvoir à signer concernant le brevet GEM 562.

Titre:

"Procédé de fabrication d'une carte sans contact".

Pierre,

Nous vous prions de bien vouloir trouver ci-joint une Declaration et un Assignment pour les US concernant le brevet ci-dessus référencé dont vous êtes l'inventeur.

Si toutefois vous ne désirez pas signer, merci de nous renvoyer les documents dans les plus brefs délais.

Vous remerciant par avance pour votre collaboration, nous vous prions d'agréer, Pierre, nos sincères salutations.

Nathalie HERAIL Assistante Propriété Industrielle.

<u>tél.</u>: 04 42 36 69 06

Fax: 04 42 36 63 43

EXHIBIT A





Mr BERTRAND Pierre « La Caravelle » 13, rue Alexandre Rossat 13200 CASSIS

Gèmenos, le 22 mars 2002

### Envoi par courrier AR 1743 6747 0FR

OBJET:

Pouvoir à signer concernant le brevet GEM 562.

Titre:

" Procédé de fabrication d'une carte sans contact ".

Bonjour Pierre,

Je fais suite à la lettre que Nathalie HERAIL vous a envoyé le 7 septembre dernier, concernant les documents relatifs à la procédure US de la demande de brevet cidessus référencée et dont vous êtes l'inventeur.

Sans réponse de votre part, je me permets de réitérer cet envoie en espérant obtenir un retour signé, ou à défaut une explication sur votre motif de refus.

A toutes fins utiles sachez que je me tiens à votre disposition pour vous fournir tout renseignement que vous jugeriez utile.

Sincèrement

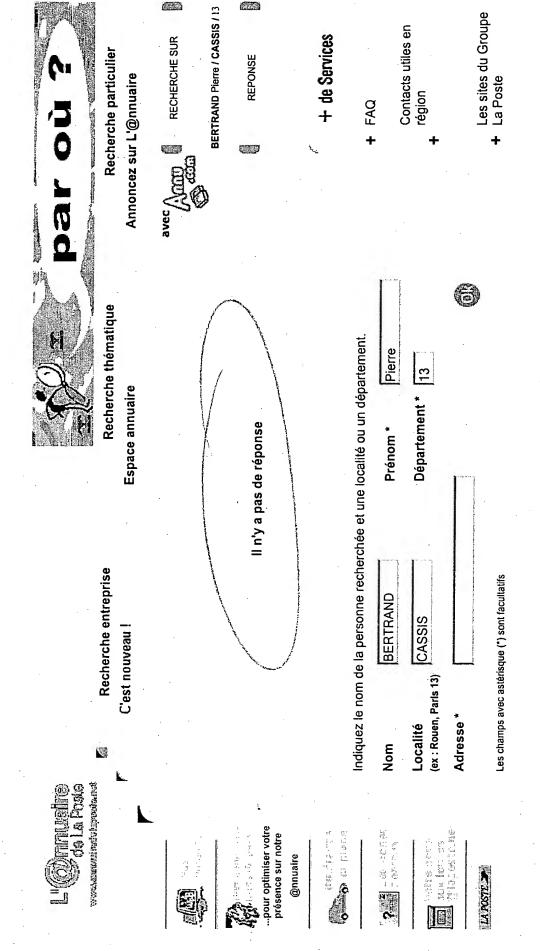
Maguie DONNINI

Assistante Propriété Industrielle

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Fax: 04 42 36 63 43

EXHIBIT C



Aide Attention Infos

Recherche entreprise

choisissez un type de recherche

EXHIBIT E